

# DOCTOR WHO

# ROBOPHOBIA

By Nicholas Briggs

**THE DOCTOR – SYLVESTER MCCOY**

A time-space traveller.

**LIV CHENKA (AND ELICIEN)**

Medical officer of the space freighter *Lorelei*. Smart but bored. Had a crush on the now deceased Tal Karus.

**FAREL**

Bored security chief of the *Lorelei*. A little over-serious.

**BAS PELLICO**

Pilot of the *Lorelei*. Liv's friend. Cheerful demeanour, always looking for the funny side. Likes a good laugh at Farel's expense. Rather camp.

**SELERAT**

Jaded captain of the *Lorelei*. Just wants to get the job done.

**CRAVNET**

Security deputy. Not too bright. Bit of a conspiracy theorist.

**TAL KARUS**

Tech support team member with a secret. Charismatic, handsome. The first to die.

**LEEBAR / COMPUTER VOICE**

A security deputy. Ill-fated / information source.

**SV10, VARIOUS VOC ROBOTS, VENTALIS CONTROL, TECH.**

**DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS BRIGGS.**

**SCRIPT EDITED BY ALAN BARNES.**

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**PART 1.**

**1. INT LORELEI. CREW CABIN (TAL KARUS).**

BEGIN ON 'EXTERIOR' OF SHIP CHUGGING THROUGH SPACE.  
LARGE, POWERFUL. LIKE AN ENORMOUS CONTAINER VESSEL.  
RELENTLESS, NOT SPEEDING.

CROSS-FADE TO INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE. FADING UP ON...

COMPUTER FILE PLAYING BACK.

**COMPUTER:**

... It was eventually discovered that the robotics genius Taron Kapel had smuggled himself aboard the Sandminer, assuming the identity of a crew-member. Having been raised almost exclusively in the company of robots, he had a distorted sense of priorities, feeling that robots had been exploited and that it was their time to rise up and destroy their 'human masters'. His aim was to create a robot revolution, in which all of humanity would be wiped out by the robots. He therefore broke the fundamental programming of the robots on the Sandminer, causing them to begin the systematic murder of the crew. Luckily, the Sandminer Captain, Commander Uvanov, gained control of the situation and a company agent was able to trigger a robot deactivation device.

BUZZ AS FILE IS STOPPED WITH A TAPPING OF KEYS.

**DOCTOR:**

[TO HIMSELF] Hmmmm... interesting how history gets distorted.

CLICK AND BLEEP OF FUTURISTIC GUN COCKING.

Ah...

**TAL KARUS:**

Don't turn around. Don't even move a muscle, whoever you are.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm the Doctor—

**TAL KARUS:**

Doctor? What? Are you a member of the crew?

**DOCTOR:**

And if you'd intended to kill me... I think you would have done it already... Tal.

**TAL KARUS:**

Just who are you? What are you doing in my cabin?

**DOCTOR:**

Finding out all about you.

**TAL KARUS:**

Well, what if I don't take kindly to—?

A BRUTAL THWACK OF IMPACT

*Argh!*

**DOCTOR:**

What—?

ANOTHER THWACK.

**TAL KARUS:**

*Ugh!*

HE COLLAPSES, DEAD. A LAST GASP.

**DOCTOR:**

You... you've killed him.

**ROBOT:**

Yes. And now I will kill you.

**DOCTOR:**

[GASPS AS HE'S THROTTLED. A STRANGULATED...] No...

*CRASH INTO OPENING THEME.*

**2. INT. CAPTAIN SELERAT'S CABIN.**

ONCE AGAIN BEGIN, BRIEFLY, ON 'EXTERIOR' PERSPECTIVE OF LORELEI RUMBLING PAST. CROSS-FADE TO INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE.

COMPUTER BLEEP.

**COMPUTER:**

Log record.

**SELERAT:**

[BORED] Errr... [BIG SIGH] Lt Commander Selerat, commanding office, Robot Container and Factory starship *Lorelei*... We are now... er... just under halfway through our long-haul voyage to Ventalis, where we will deliver our cargo of approximately 157,000 robots and five construction plant kits.

SIGHS AND TAKES A SIP OF A DRINK.

Er... uneventful journey so far... *until now*. [IRRITATED] This morning, I was woken up by a call from my security chief... um, whose name is...

TAPS OF SOME COMPUTER KEYS... BIDDLE BIDDLE OF READ-OUT.

Oh yeah... 'Security Chief Farel'. Apparently, one of our Kaldor City tech support team... [CHECKS AGAIN] one 'Tal Karus' has been bludgeoned to death in his cabin.

SIGHS AND TAKES ANOTHER SIP.

Have advised Chief Farel that we do not have the forensic capabilities to deal with this and have ordered him to... um, contain the situation until proper investigations can be carried out on Ventalis. I am currently leaving this... problem in the chief's capable hands. [LONG SIGH]

**COMPUTER:**

Is log recording ended? Captain?

**SELERAT:**

Eh? What do you think? Yes! (MUMBLES) Cretin.

**3. INT. SECURITY CENTRE. LORELEI.**

BEGIN ON THE MOST SERENE MUSIC. BEAUTIFUL, INSPIRING, MOVING. AS IT REACHES A SUBLIME CRESCENDO...

A WHOOSH OF A SANDSTORM AND A TERRIFYING SCREAM FROM A WOMAN. TERRIBLE AGONY.

**WOMAN:**

[SCREAM]

IMMEDIATELY CUT TO SECURITY CENTRE AMBIENCE AND EFFECTS. THE MUSIC IS PLAYING, MUTED, IN THE BACKGROUND FROM A SPEAKER.

A COMMS ALERT IS SQUEALING OUT IN THE SAME PITCH AS THE SCREAM, THEN MODIFIES TO NORMAL PITCH.

**FAREL:**

[GASPS FOR SOME MOMENTS, AWAKING FROM 'THE DREAM'] Wha... ? Er... [VERY DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO RECOVER] Oh...

WE HEAR HIM FUMBLE TO GRAB HIS COMMS UNIT. CLICK AND BLEEP.

Yes! Security Chief Farel. Yes, what is it?

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Chief? Are you all right?

**FAREL:**

What? N—yes, I was just... er... busy. [TRYING TO RECOVER, OVER-COMPENSATING] Do you have a report for me, Medical Officer?

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Um... no, not quite. Not yet. I just wanted to tell you there are just a few things I need to look into before—

**FAREL:**

Look, the captain doesn't want any fuss. We're simply containing this until the police on Ventalis can make a proper examination. Is the deceased's cabin sealed off now?

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Yes... that whole walkway is cordoned off.

**FAREL:**

Good, the captain doesn't want anyone going in there. Have you frozen the body yet?

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Well... not yet. I just wanted to make a preliminary examination and—

**FAREL:**

Don't let the captain hear you say that. Er... Any idea how he died?

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Well... [TAKES A DEEP BREATH] He was hit with considerable force by... well, some kind of blunt instrument. I haven't had time to map the wound exactly, but—

**FAREL:**

Honestly, I think it's probably best just to *leave* the poor guy for now, Med-tech Chenka. The captain really isn't in the mood for this.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

I know... I know... [SIGHS] Fair enough.

CROSS-FADE TO...

**4. INT. MED-CENTRE. LORELEI.**

**LIV:**

... Farel?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

Yes... What is it?

**LIV:**

Why do you think anyone would kill him? I mean, he was—

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

[SIGHS] I dunno, Liv... I dunno.

**LIV:**

I suppose... this means we've got a murderer on board, doesn't it?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

[GRAVE] Yes... yes, it does. Which is why I've restricted all crew to quarters... on the captain's orders, and I've got my meagre security force patrolling all the major walkways. As much as a ship this big with such a small crew can be... we're in lockdown. I suggest you package poor Mr Tarus up and get him into a freezer pod as soon as you can.

**LIV:**

Okay... okay... sure. Thanks.

BLEEP OF COMMS CUT-OFF.

[TO HERSELF] Huh... just my luck. [PAUSE] Oh, Tal...

CROSS-FADE TO...

**5. FLASHBACK INT. LORELEI REFECTORY. (THE PAST)**

CHAIR SCUFFS.

**TAL:**

Mind if I sit here?

**LIV:**

Er... [SEEING HIM AND LIKING WHAT SHE SEES] No, no... not at all.

**TAL:**

Tal... Tal Karus. Hi.

**LIV:**

Liv Chenka.

**TAL:**

You're the Med-Tech, right?

**LIV:**

Yeah. How did... ? Oh [LAUGHS]

**LIV & TAL:**

The uniform.

**TAL:**

Interesting work?

**LIV:**

Er... mostly not. [A LITTLE LAUGH]

**TAL:**

[CHUCKLES] Could you pass me the vinegar?

**LIV:**

Oh... sure. [DOES SO] What are you, Tech-Support?

**TAL:**

Yeah. [EATS CHIP] Urrgh... these chips are... actually *soft*.

**LIV:**

I know! Never changes. You should've asked me. Never go for the chips on the *Lorelei*. Make it crispy potato skins every time. Want some of mine?

**TAL:**

Oooh, do you mind?

**LIV:**

Dive in.



**TAL:**

[EATING POTATO SKINS] Mmm. They're great. Cheers, Liv.

[GIGGLES] Does this constitute the start of a beautiful relationship?

THEY BOTH LAUGH.

CROSS-FADE BACK TO...

**6. INT. MEDICAL CENTRE.**

**LIV:**

[SAD REMINISCENCE] Hmmmm.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, memories.

**LIV:**

[JUMPS WITH A START] Wha- ? Who the hell are you?

**DOCTOR:**

Just passing through.

**LIV:**

Passing through? What do you mean, passing through? I've got the med-centre door secure-locked.

READ OUT ON COMPUTER BIDDLE-BIDDLES.

Excuse me, what are you doing?

**DOCTOR:**

[READING READ-OUT] Interesting. I see it's conclusive that Tal Karus was hit on the head... 'with considerable force'.

**LIV:**

Look... Can I help you? Which department are you from?

**DOCTOR:**

Er... Just come up from engineering. Tal had a few friends down on that deck. Maybe they want to find out what happened.

**LIV:**

Oh... Oh, I see. Did you know him?

**DOCTOR:**

No... well, I met him... once. Just once.

**LIV:**

Oh. Um, sorry, I didn't catch your [name].

**DOCTOR:**

Did you know him well?

**TAL:**

N-well, er... we chatted... a few times. He was... well, we got on, you know, pretty well. He was... well, he was... [DESPITE HERSELF, BECOMING A LITTLE EMOTIONAL] Sorry, sorry, I don't know what's the matter with me.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, even on huge, soulless ships like this, lasting bonds are formed.

**LIV:**

Lasting? Oh, I wouldn't... well... I wouldn't say— Er, well, I did know him. He was... He was... [SHE STOPS]

**DOCTOR:**

What was he? You keep trying to say. And you keep trying to stop yourself.

**LIV:**

[CRIES, BUT TRIES TO COVER IT] He was... you know. He was nice. I... liked him. I hardly knew him, but I liked him, all right?

**DOCTOR:**

Yes.

**LIV:**

Sorry, who are you again?

**DOCTOR:**

So maybe you feel you owe it to him to have a closer look at those wounds.

**LIV:**

Um, Farel said to leave it to the company investigators on Ventalis.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, but Farel's not here. And you'd like some answers, wouldn't you? Maybe it's worth looking at Tal's computer... the one in his cabin.

**LIV:**

His computer? I've got his computer files on the network here.

PRESSES KEYS. DISPLAY STARTS ANIMATING.

It forms part of his personal effects for when... when I freeze him. I'm not allowed to access them, of course. I just have to save them onto a data—

BLEEP.

Wait a minute. There are some files that won't copy from his personal drive...

KEYS PRESSED.

Hey... looks like he's got something locked on the local drive in his cabin. That's a bit—

DOOR CLOSES.

Hello? Where... ? [TO HERSELF] He's gone.

**7. INT. SECURITY CENTRE.**

COMMS BLEEP.

**FAREL:**

Security Chief Farel to Captain Selerat.

COMMS BLEEP.

Er... security Chief Farel to Captain Selerat.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

[IMPATIENT] Yes, I heard you the first time, Chief. I'm trying to run a ship up here. What is it? [OFF] Pellico, increase speed to maximum sub-light, please.

**FAREL:**

Um... just to let you know we have everything cordoned off and—

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

And the body frozen?

PAUSE.

Well?

**FAREL:**

I'll... just double-check that, sir. Med-Tech Chenka is—

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Poking her nose in where it's not wanted? Dragging her feet? Give her a boot up the backside, Farel, or I swear I'll go down there and do it myself.

CROSS-FADE TO...

**8. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

Er... yes, sir. I'll tell her to—

**SELERAT:**

I mean it, Farel. Our priority is to make sure we make our delivery. It'll be up to the company investigators to get their sticky fingers on this. Let's just keep our minds on the bonus we'll get for delivering those robots ahead of schedule.

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

Of course, sir. I'll—

COMMS BLEEP AS HE'S CUT OFF.

**SELERAT:**

[UNDER HIS BREATH] Just get on with it, you cretin.

NAVIGATION BLEEP. AUTOPILOT CUTTING IN.

**COMPUTER:**

Auto-pilot cutting in.

**SELERAT:**

What's going on? Pilot? Why have you switched to auto-nav?

**BAS:**

Because I'm overdue my rest shift.

**SELERAT:**

Bit of a stickler for rest shifts, aren't we?

**BAS:**

Er... not really, sir... considering I've just worked two straight shifts to get us through those asteroids.

**SELERAT:**

Hm. Oh, very well. Off you trot, Pellico. Log out.

**BAS:**

Sir.

COMPUTER BLEEPS.

**COMPUTER:**

Pilot Bas Pellico. Confirm ident.

**BAS:**

Bas Pellico. Senior Pilot. *Lorelei*.

**COMPUTER:**

Recognized. Your rest shift starts now.

**BAS:**

Confirmed. Ta. See you back here at 0450, sir.

**SELERAT:**

Don't oversleep, Pellico!

DOOR OPENS AS BAS LEAVES. DOOR BEGINS TO SHUT BEHIND HIM.

CUT TO...

**9. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE BRIDGE. LORELEI.**

DOOR CLOSES.

FOOTSTEPS.

PORTABLE COMMS BLEEP.

**BAS:**

[HUSHED, WHILE WALKING] Liv. Liv, can you hear me?

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Bas? Is that you? Why are you whispering?

**BAS:**

I've just left the command deck, and Selerat is pretty miffed with you. [SNIGGERING] Says he might come down and put a toe up your backside.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Oh lovely. What are you doing?

**BAS:**

I'm on my rest shift. Put the drinks on, I'll be with you in a few minutes and I need a nightcap...

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

But Farel's got a walkway curfew in operation—

**BAS:**

On a ship this big he hasn't got a hope in hell of covering all the walkways... and anyway, if one of his deputies collars me, I'll just pull rank or plead ignorance or break down and plead for clemency. God, I'm totally wired after flying us through those asteroids.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Ha, ha... I'm not surprised, I could hear the bumps from here.

**BAS:**

Oh very funny, darlin'... I didn't hit one of them, you cheeky bint.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

(GLUM) Sorry.

**BAS:**

Hey, you all right, Livvy?

CUT TO...



**INT. MEDICAL CENTRE.**

**LIV:**

[COVERING] Yeah... sure. Of course.

WHIRR OF SICKBAY BED MOVING INTO A SEALED COMPARTMENT.

I've just been examining the dead body of the only man who's shown the remotest interest in me in the last two years, that's all. I'm... absolutely fine.

**BAS: [DISTORT]**

Listen, sweetheart, your uncle Bas is on his way to you and I'll be all ears, my love.

**LIV:**

Sorry, I'm being an idiot. I hardly knew him. He was just... nice.

**BAS: [DISTORT]**

Well I think you did know him, Liv. I think— [STOPS, HAS SEEN SOMETHING] Hey... wait a minute.

MUSIC: SINISTER MOMENT.

**LIV:**

What's the matter? Bas? Bas?

**BAS: [DISTORT]**

I thought I saw... I dunno.

**LIV:**

Thought you saw what? Bas? Bas, do you need to call security? Bas, I'll call security. Get one of Farel's goons up there to—

**BAS: [DISTORT]**

Oh, don't panic, girlfriend... It's just... I dunno... Some bloke. I'll get back to you.

BLEEP. HE'S GONE.

**LIV:**

Hey! Oh. [TO HERSELF] 'Some bloke'?

**10. INT. LORELEI STORAGE BAY.**

**BAS:**

Excuse me!?! Yes, you!

**DOCTOR:**

[IN DISTANCE] Oh... hello.

**BAS:**

Who are you?

**DOCTOR:**

[APPROACHING] Oooh, I'm just having a look around.

**BAS:**

[SARCASTIC] Funny sort of name.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, I see... yes, I have got a funny sort of name, actually. I'm known as the Doctor.

**BAS:**

Doctor? Wasn't that an old-fashioned name for Med-Tech?

**DOCTOR:**

Probably. Shouldn't you be a bit more nervous, considering there might be a murderer loose on your ship, Bas?

**BAS:**

How do you know my name?

**DOCTOR:**

Senior Pilot Bas. You're a bit of a legend on the engineering deck... so they say.

**BAS:**

Yeah, I know what they say about me on the engineering deck all right. So what are you doing up here, then? You looked like you were messing with the cargo to me.

**DOCTOR:**

Um, I was just... er... looking for something.

**BAS:**

Anything in particular?

**DOCTOR:**

Don't worry, I didn't find it.

**BAS:**

Eh?

**DOCTOR:**

I think it's probably in one of the other storage bays. You're a friend of Liv Chenka's aren't you?

**BAS:**

Wha—? Er, I am, as a matter of fact, yes. What's it to you?

**DOCTOR:**

I expect you're on your way to see her, aren't you?

**BAS:**

(REPEATING) What's it to you?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh nothing, nothing. It's just that we were having a little chat earlier.

**BAS:**

You were chatting to Liv? What about?

**DOCTOR:**

About poor Tal.

**BAS:**

Oh. Did you know him?

**DOCTOR:**

I... I met him once.

**BAS:**

Can't say I knew him. Still, Liv and he seemed to... Sorry, what exactly are you wearing?

**DOCTOR:**

Hm? Oh, something we're trying out on the engineering deck.

**BAS:**

Bit strange, isn't it? What's the hat for?

**DOCTOR:**

Um... to protect against vapour leakages.

**BAS:**

And that... what is it?

**DOCTOR:**

An umbrella.

IT IS OPENED.

**BAS:**

Oh, what does that do?

**DOCTOR:**

For bigger vapour leakages. Don't forget to remind Liv about Tal's computer, will you?

STARTS TO MOVE OFF.

**BAS:**

Tal's computer? Hey, hang on.

DOOR OPENS.

**DOCTOR:**

Do excuse me. Things to go. Places to do.

DOOR CLOSES BEHIND HIM.

MUSIC: SHORT TIME PASSING.

**11. INT. MEDICAL CENTRE.**

THEY ARE DRINKING COFFEE OR SOMETHING VERY LIKE IT.

**LIV:**

And he said his name was 'the Doctor'?

**BAS:**

Yeah. Is it the same bloke?

**LIV:**

Sounds like it. Said he was from engineering, but he didn't look anything like an engineer.

**BAS:**

No... he looked like... I dunno what he looked like. What was he doing in here?

**LIV:**

He somehow managed to get in when I had the door locked. He wanted to talk about... about Tal. About how he died and... Oh yeah, he wanted me to look at-

**BAS:**

His computer?

**LIV:**

How did you know?

**BAS:**

Because I've just remembered. He told me to remind you about that.

COMMS BLEEP.

PAUSE.

COMMS BLEEP AGAIN.

Aren't you going to answer that?

**LIV:**

It's Farel.

**BAS:**

So?

**LIV:**

He wants to hear that I've frozen Tal's body.

**BAS:**

You haven't?

**LIV:**

No... something that Doctor said made me...

COMMS BLEEP.

**BAS:**

So you're ignoring a call from the Security Chief after a murder? Won't that get you into trouble?

**LIV:**

Not if I'm not here.

**BAS:**

But you are here.

**LIV:**

No, I'm not. I'm in Tal's cabin... checking out his personal files. Or rather I will be very soon.

**BAS:**

Liv!?! Have you gone crazy?

COMMS BLEEP AGAIN.

**LIV:**

Maybe... But I think that Doctor bloke—

**BAS:**

He could be the murderer for all we know. Have you thought of that?

**LIV:**

Yeah. Yeah, I have. But he said something about maybe me owing something to Tal...

**BAS:**

'Owing something'?

**LIV:**

I don't know... but it kind of made sense, you know? It sort of struck a chord.

**BAS:**

This Doctor guy is playing with our head, Livvy.

**LIV:**

Maybe. Maybe. But I don't think the murderer would want to give me clues about how and why Tal was killed.

COMMS BLEEP AGAIN.

**BAS:**

He might do, if we was stark-staring bonkers.

**LIV:**

[DETERMINED] You know what I think the most important thing is?

**BAS:**

No, what?

**LIV:**

Are you with me or not?

**12. INT. SECURITY PASSAGEWAY. LORELEI.**

**FAREL:**

[WALKING AND REPORTING TO PERSONAL RADIO] Am now proceeding through security passageway Delta 11B4, as ordered. This will take me through the Robot Bay section and straight to Liv Chenka in the Medical Centre.

DOOR OPENS. HIS FOOTSTEPS.

Now in Robot Bay area. Please note that Med-Tech Chenka has not responded to my calls. If she is not in the correct location, I will upgrade the shipwide alert to— [NOTICES SOMETHING] Wha... ? Have located an unidentified object.

HIS FOOTSTEPS.

Am approaching object. Object is cuboid in shape. Colour, black, maybe dark blue. No, black. This was not registered on the manifest. There's some writing on it. 'Police Public Calls...' at the top, then... 'Police Telephone, free for use of public, advice and assistance available immediately. Officers and cars respond to all calls. Pull to open.' Hmmm, doesn't open.

DURING THIS, CROSS-FADE TO SLIGHTLY FURTHER AWAY.

**DOCTOR:**

[OBSERVING FAREL, TO HIMSELF] Hmm... yes, I wonder what you make of the TARDIS, Mr Farel?



**13. INT. TAL KARUS'S CABIN.**

DOOR IS PUSHED OPEN TENTATIVELY. A POWER DOOR, BUT THE POWER IS DISABLED.

**BAS:**

[NOISE OF EFFORT. HUSHED] This is never gonna work. The door's stuck solid.

**LIV:**

Give it another shove. Come on.

THEY BOTH PUSH THE DOOR.

SLOWLY, IT EDGES OPEN.

GASP OF RELIEF AS IT SUDDENLY SLIDES FULLY OPEN.

**BAS:**

Phew. Why did they turn the door power off?

**LIV:**

Because they didn't want anyone getting in. It's a murder scene?

**BAS:**

Yeah... remind me why we're here again?

**LIV:**

Get your torch, we've got to find Tal's computer.

SHIP-WIDE ALARM SOUNDS.

**BAS: [SIMULTANEOUS]**

Oh no.

**LIV: [SIMULTANEOUS]**

Oh... *what?*

**BAS:**

How the hell did they know we were here?

**LIV:**

Damnit. Look down there.

**BAS:**

Eh? What?

**LIV:**

By the door... some sort of alarm sensor, I think.

**BAS:**

Liv, how the hell are we gonna talk ourselves out of this?

**FAREL:**

[SHIPWIDE SPEAKERS] Attention! Attention! An unidentified object has been found in the cargo bay area. Repeat... an unidentified object has been found in the cargo bay area.

LIV AND BAS BOTH BREATHE A HUGE SIGH OF RELIEF.

**LIV:**

[LAUGHING WITH RELIEF] That alarm's not for us. We're okay. Right, come on!

BUILD MUSIC AND CROSS-FADE TO...

**14. INT. CARGO BAY AREA.**

SLIGHTLY LATER...

**SELERAT:**

So this is what you dragged me down here to see, Farel.

**LEEBAR:**

I wouldn't go too near it, sir. We haven't finished scanning it.

**FAREL:**

The fact is, Captain, it seems to be impervious to our scans.

**SELERAT:**

Do you think it has any connection to Tal's death?

**FAREL:**

Er... hard to tell.

**SELERAT:**

Oh, for goodness sake, of course it hasn't got any connection. It's just some sort of... I dunno, some antique or something that someone smuggled aboard. Get it on a grav-pad and impound it. When we get to Ventalis, we'll post a claims ad and see if anyone owns up. Right, anything else?

**FAREL:**

Er... no, sir. I don't think so.

**SELERAT:**

Has Liv got that body frozen yet?

**FAREL:**

Er... well, I was just on my way to see her when—

**SELERAT:**

Oh, just get it done, Chief. Could you perhaps manage that?

**FAREL:**

Of course, Captain.

**SELERAT:**

Really? You surprise me. Carry on. I'll be on the command deck.

HE STRIDES OFF.

**LEEBAR:**

Not in a very good mood, is he, Chief?

**FAREL:**

Shut up and fetch a grav-pad... and be quick about it. And do your tunic up. You look like a... a... layabout rather than a security deputy. It's about time you lot took your jobs seriously, Leebar.

**LEEBAR:**

Sir.

**FAREL:**

Well... go on then! And when you've got it on the grav-pad, store it in Robot Bay 117. End of.

**15. INT. TAL'S CABIN.**

TAPPING OF COMPUTER KEYS.

**LIV:**

This is it. This is it. This is the stuff that wasn't on the network.

**BAS:**

How did this Doctor guy know about all this?

**LIV:**

I dunno... here we go...

**COMPUTER:**

It was eventually discovered that the robotics genius Taron Kapel had smuggled himself aboard the Sandminer, assuming the identity of a crew-member. [PLAYS UNDER]

**BAS:**

What the hell is this?

**LIV:**

Sssh.

**COMPUTER:**

Having been raised almost exclusively in the company of robots, he had a distorted sense of priorities, feeling that robots had been exploited and that it was their time to rise up and destroy their 'human masters'. His aim was to create a robot revolution, in which all of humanity would be wiped out by the robots.

**BAS:**

Oh my God.

**COMPUTER:**

He therefore broke the fundamental programming of the robots on the Sandminer, causing them to begin the systematic murder of the crew.

**LIV:**

Oh... what?

**COMPUTER:**

Luckily, the Sandminer Captain, Commander Uvanov, gained control of the situation and a company agent was able to trigger a robot deactivation device.

BLEEP OF STOPPING PLAYBACK.

**LIV:**

[APPALLED] Robots... *killing* people?!?

**BAS:**

This must've been hushed up by the company.

**LIV:**

Yeah, and how many robots have we got stored on this ship?

**BAS:**

Round about 150,000, I heard.

**LIV:**

Oh no.

**BAS:**

Look, Liv, I know we'll be in trouble for breaking in here, but we've got to call the captain and tell him about this. I mean, if our robot cargo—

COMPUTER KEYS TAPPED.

**LIV:**

Hold on.

**BAS:**

What? What is it? Liv, we can't hang around on this—

**LIV:**

I think I just found what that sensor by the door was for. Look. There's a security surveillance system on this computer. It's monitoring this room.

KEYS TAPPED.

And it's still recording.

**BAS:**

You mean it's recording us, now?

**LIV:**

Yeah.

**BAS:**

Well, stop it. Erase it or something.

**LIV:**

Wait a minute, though. What if this has been recording since... well...

**BAS:**

Since poor Tal got killed, you mean?

**LIV:**

Yeah.

**BAS:**

Oh God. You mean... oh no.

**LIV:**

If we rewind the play-back for long enough... we'll be able to see what happened... who killed Tal.

PAUSE.

**BAS:**

Do it.

**LIV:**

Yeah... I'm gonna do it.

TAPPING OF KEYS.

REWINDING OF MUTED SOUND.

**BAS:**

It's working. That's us coming in. Go further back.

REWIND OF MUTED SOUND SPEEDS UP.

**16. INT. MEDICAL CENTRE.**

THE DOCTOR IS EAVESDROPPING ON THEM...

BLEEP OF COMPUTER READ-OUT.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

No... still further back.

**BAS: [DISTORT]**

What if... ? What if it's someone we know?

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

I don't care. I've got to find out.

**DOCTOR:**

That's it. That's my girl. Come on, Liv. Come on.



**17. INT. TAL KARUS'S CABIN.**

REWIND FX.

**BAS:**  
There!

BLEEP OF REWIND STOPPING. PLAYBACK STARTS.

**LIV:**  
It's him again!

*[REPEAT OF EARLIER SEQUENCE — DO NOT RE-RECORD.]*

**DOCTOR:** *[SCREEN DISTORT]*  
*I'm the Doctor—*

**BAS:**  
I told you he was the murderer.

**TAL KARUS:** *[SCREEN DISTORT]*  
*Doctor? What? Are you a member of the crew?*

**LIV:**  
Oh... Tal...

**DOCTOR:** *[SCREEN DISTORT]*  
*And if you'd intended to kill me... I think you would have done it already... Tal.*

**TAL KARUS:** *[SCREEN DISTORT]*  
*Just who are you? What are you doing in my cabin?*

**DOCTOR:** *[SCREEN DISTORT]*  
*Finding out all about you.*

**LIV:**  
(CAUGHT UP IN IT) Tal, look out!

**TAL KARUS:** *[SCREEN DISTORT]*  
*Well, what if I don't take kindly to—?*

A BRUTAL THWACK OF IMPACT

*Argh!*

**DOCTOR:** *[SCREEN DISTORT]*  
*What—?*

**BAS:**  
Oh my God. It's a robot. It really is a robot.

*ANOTHER THWACK.*

*TAL KARUS: [SCREEN DISTORT]  
Ugh!*

*HE COLLAPSES, DEAD. A LAST GASP.*

*DOCTOR: [SCREEN DISTORT]  
You... you've killed him.*

*ROBOT: [SCREEN DISTORT]  
Yes. And now I will kill you.*

*DOCTOR: [SCREEN DISTORT]  
[GASPS AS HE'S THROTTLED. A STRANGULATED...] No...*

*BLEEP OF PLAYBACK STOPPING.*

**LIV:**  
Tal... was... was murdered by... by a robot.

**BAS:**  
Er... yeah... and did you notice? That Doctor bloke? It strangled him. We've been talking to a dead man, Liv.

**LIV:**  
But... but...

**BAS:**  
But nothing, sister, we really do have to tell the captain about this.

**LIV:**  
But none of the robots are activated. They're all in storage... switched off, in the cargo bays, so how come— ?

**BAS:**  
Look, we're not blinkin' detectives, darlin'. Let's leave that to the professionals—

*ALARM SOUNDS.*

**COMPUTER: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**  
Ship-wide security alert!

**BAS:**  
Again? What the hell's going on now?

**LEE BAR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**  
This is deputy Leebar! In Robot Bay 117...[CONTINUES INTO NEXT SCENE]

**18. INT. CARGO BAY.**

METALLIC DOOR CLUNKS OPEN.

**DOCTOR:**

(CONCENTRATING) Now then... Where are you?

**LEEBAR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

You've got to—aargh! (SIGNAL FIZZLES OUT)

**DOCTOR:**

(FINDING SOMETHING) Aha! There you are.

SOMETHING METAL IS PICKED UP.

And that should do the trick.

A BUTTON IS CLICKED.

**LEEBAR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Stay back!!! (BLUDGEONED) Aaaaaaaargh!

**COMPUTER: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Ship-wide security alert ends.

**DOCTOR:**

(TO HIMSELF) Ooh, I'm afraid it doesn't. It's only just beginning.

A RHYTHMIC ELECTRONIC BLEEPING, A COUNTDOWN HAS FADED IN.

Wait a minute... what's that? Oh no. Very oh no. And packed full of booby-traps... too late to do anything about it.

**19. INT. ROBOT BAY 117.**

FOOTSTEPS AS LIV AND BAS APPROACH, OUT OF BREATH.

**SELERAT:** [TANNOY DISTORT]

This is the captain! Deputy Leebar, report! What are you playing at? What's going on?

**BAS:**

Liv, he's over here! I think I'm gonna be sick.

SHE DASHES TO HIM.

**LIV:**

(SEEING THE BODY OF LEEBAR) Just like Tal. Almost identical injuries.

**BAS:**

And very dead. Come on, Liv, the killer could still be—

FOOTSTEPS APPROACH.

Oh no. It's him.

[NB: RIGHT FROM THE OUTSET, THE DOCTOR IS TRYING TO TELL THEM ABOUT THE BOMB!]

**LIV:**

Doctor... but we saw you—

**DOCTOR:**

I'm not the killer.

**LIV:**

No, but you're dead. We saw—

**DOCTOR:**

Appearances — as I often find myself reminding so many people — *can* be deceptive. Now—

**BAS:**

You're telling me. That robot strangled the life out of you.

**LIV:**

What's this thing?

**DOCTOR:**

It's my TARDIS, but—

**BAS:**

Your what?

FOOTSTEPS DASH IN.

**CRAVNET:**

(OUT OF BREATH) Right, nobody move!

**DOCTOR:**

Oh dear.

**CRAVNET:**

What the hell's going on here?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, I imagine you're about to blame me for the death of your colleague. But before you arrest—

**CRAVNET:**

Shut up! (COMMS BLEEP) Deputy Cravnet to Chief Farel.

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

(RUNNING, OUT OF BREATH) Farel receiving. Where are you?

**DOCTOR:**

Robot Bay 117 and—

**CRAVNET:**

Shut up. Leebar is dead and there's some bloke here... I've never seen him before. I don't think he's a member of the crew.

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

(RUNNING, OUT OF BREATH) What?

**DOCTOR:**

I'm not. But none of this matters—

**CRAVNET:**

I said shut up! Sorry, Chief, not you. He's not a member of the crew, Chief.

**DOCTOR:**

You have to listen—

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

Arrest him, I'm on my way to you now.

COMMS BLEEP OFF.

Right, you're under arrest.

**LIV:**

Look, he can't be the murderer!

**CRAVNET:**

Why not?

**BAS:**

Yeah, why not, Livvy?

**LIV:**

You know why not, Bas. Because... well, because we saw him.. He was— [dead].

**DOCTOR:**

All right! Perhaps I should make this more obvious! *There is a bomb in this cargo bay and it's about to go off!* I strongly suggest that we all run for our lives!!!

**CRAVNET:**

What... ? You're bluffing!

**DOCTOR:**

Why would I? And anyway, are you prepared to take the risk?

**CRAVNET:**

(FROZEN IN INDECISION) Wh... But... Er...

**LIV:**

Well I believe him! Come on, *run!!!*

**CRAVNET:**

All right! *Go, go, go!!!*

FOOTSTEPS AND BREATHING AS THEY ALL CHARGE OFF.

**CRAVNET:**

(RUNNING, OUT OF BREATH) Oi, and don't run too far! You're under still arrest!

A HUGE EXPLOSION. THEY ALL CRY OUT. DEBRIS FALLS.

THE RUMBLE DIES DOWN.

TOTAL SILENCE.

**20. INT. ROBOT BAY 118.**

FAREL AND LIV'S DIALOGUE SWIRLS IN, ECHOING. THE DOCTOR IS JUST BECOMING CONSCIOUS AGAIN AND WE ARE HEARING FAREL FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW.

**FAREL:**

Is he all right? Is he dead?

**LIV:**

(GRIGGY) No, he's not dead.

**FAREL:**

He'll soon wish he was!

**DOCTOR:**

(GROANS, COMING ROUND)

**FAREL:**

That's it! Wake up! I said wake up!

**LIV:**

(GROGGY) What's the matter with you, Chief? We were all nearly blown to pieces.

**FAREL:**

Yes, by him! He must've planted the bomb.

**DOCTOR:**

(GROGGY) Really? And why would I want to blow up your precious robots? Any chance of a cup of tea?

**FAREL:**

We'll let the company investigators on Ventalis deal with him.

COMMS BLEEP.

Er... Oh. Hello, captain, I-

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

What the hell's going on down there, Farel? All the sensors in Robot Bay 117 have gone dead and the security grid is showing fire-hazard shut-down and in that area.

**FAREL:**

Er... yes, that's right, sir.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Right? What do you mean, 'that's right'?

**FAREL:**

There's been... an explosion... Some sort of sabotage.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Sabotage?!?

**FAREL:**

Yes... um, but don't worry, sir. We think we've found the culprit. (THINKING ON HIS FEET) A stowaway.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, that old chestnut.

**FAREL:**

Shut up! Not you, sir. Sorry, sir.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Are you saying... ? You're not saying we've lost some of our cargo, are you?

**FAREL:**

Er... yes... yes, I suppose... er... I'm afraid it... er... pretty much looks that way... captain.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

(BEYOND FURY... BUT SUPPRESSED) Just get the situation under control, Farel, and then report back to me! For a damn good kicking.

**FAREL:**

But—

COMMS BLEEP OFF.

**DOCTOR:**

He sounds a difficult man.

**BAS:**

Hooo... you don't know the half of it, deario.

**FAREL:**

*Cravnet?*

**CRAVNET:**

Chief?

**FAREL:**

Make sure he's locked up.

**CRAVNET:**

Who?



**DOCTOR:**

He means me.

**CRAVNET:**

Oh, yes... right. Course, chief.

**BAS:**

But you haven't *proved* anything yet.

**LIV:**

That's right. You can't just—

**FAREL:**

Well it was either you and Bas or him! You want me to lock you two up as well?

**LIV:**

No, but—

**DOCTOR:**

I see the blast doors are down. That bomb really did make a mess of Robot Bay 117, didn't it? Lucky I rigged up more than just one bay.

**LIV:**

Rigged up... ? You mean... you *did* plant the bomb? But why? I thought—

**BAS:**

Told ya, darlin'. Stark-staring bonkers.

**LIV:**

But—

**DOCTOR:**

What I meant was... 'rigged up' for robot activation. Here...

HE TAKES A DEVICE FROM HIS POCKET.

**CRAVNET:**

Steady! Put that down.

**DOCTOR:**

It's not a weapon. I found it in a storage compartment... just before I found the bomb, as it turns out. It's a robot activator. Very handy.

CLICK. BLEEPING SIGNAL.

And there we are. It's signalling to Robot Bay 118. This bay.

**20A. INT. ROBOT BAY 118. CONTAINER AREA.**

ROBOT CONTAINERS CLUNK AND WHIRR, OPENING. FOOTSTEPS.

**VOC:**

What are your orders, controller?

**SUPERVOC:**

I detect that this ship is still in motion. We have received an illegal activation signal.

**VOC:**

The reactivation cannot be stopped?

**SUPERVOC:**

No. All robots in this bay are being activated. Those responsible must be found and punished.

CROSS-FADE TO...

**20B. INT. ROBOT BAY 118.**

THE MASSED CLUNKING AND WHIRRING OF ROBOT STORAGE COMPARTMENTS OPENING. HUNDREDS OF COMPARTMENTS. IT'S ALMOST DEFEANING.

EVERYONE RAISES THEIR VOICE OVER THE DIN.

**FAREL:**

What? No! What are you doing?

**LIV:**

Oh my God! Bas, look!

**BAS:**

Yeah, I can see it, Livvy! He's woken up all the robots.

**DOCTOR:**

(PROUDLY) I have indeed.

**FAREL:**

You can't! You mustn't!

**DOCTOR:**

Don't worry, they can't harm you.

FOOTSTEPS OF ROBOTS APPROACHING.

**LIV:**

I don't know what you're playing at, Doctor, but we saw—!

**BAS:**

Oh my God, Liv, there's thousands of them!

**DOCTOR:**

Hello, you must be in charge. A SuperVoc, no less.

**SUPERVOC:**

Your activation command is in contravention of our master programming.

**DOCTOR:**

I know. Sorry about that, but needs must—

**SUPERVOC:**

You have ten seconds to explain this illegality, or condign action will be taken.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah.

*CRASH IN CLOSING THEME.*

**Part 2**

**21. INT. ROBOT BAY 118.**

[CONTINUED DIRECTLY FROM PREVIOUS EPISODE...]

**DOCTOR:**

(RECALLING) Let me see now... Security Code delta-seven-four-niner-gamma-beta-eight.

**SUPERVOC:**

Command accepted.

**DOCTOR:**

Thank you, SV10.

SILENCE.

**LIV:**

They've stopped. You've stopped them.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, I have, rather, haven't I?

**FAREL:**

Just what the hell are you playing at?!?

**LIV:**

What are you up to, Doctor? You're up to something, aren't you?

**DOCTOR:**

Um—

**FAREL:**

Shut up! I'm in charge here!

**BAS:**

(AMUSED) Oooh, take a stress pill, deario.

**FAREL:**

How did you get control of the robots?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, I'm just gifted that way.

**FAREL:**

All right, I don't care how. Just shut them down! Shut off their power!

**DOCTOR:**

Why?

**FAREL:**

*Because I said so!* You can shut them down with that... that device, can't you? Shut them down now!

**DOCTOR:**

Um... I don't think so!

**FAREL:**

Cravnet, take that thing off him.

**CRAVNET:**

(OBEDIENT) Chief. (GRABBING WITH EFFORT) Thank you.

**DOCTOR:**

Ugh... Manners.

**FAREL:**

And what was it you said to them... ? Er...

**DOCTOR:**

Were you actually paying attention?

**FAREL:**

Security Code... delta-seven... Hold on... it was... it was... delta-seven-four... niner-gamma-beta... eight. That was it!

PAUSE.

**BAS:**

Doesn't... seem to have had much of an effect.

**SUPERVOC:**

Command not accepted.

**DOCTOR:**

SV10 has recorded my voice pattern. The code won't work for anyone else now.

**FAREL:**

(FURIOUS) Give me that activation device, Cravnet.

BUTTONS CLICKED.

**DOCTOR:**

What are you trying to do?

**FAREL:**

Nothing. Shut up. Cravnet!

**CRAVNET:**

Chief?

**FAREL:**

Throw this man in the security locker! I'm taking this activator thing to my office... *confiscating it*. Take him away, now!

**DOCTOR:**

What are you going to do?

**FAREL:**

None of your business.

**DOCTOR:**

I wasn't talking to you.

**SUPERVOC:**

Now that you have activated us, Tal Karus...

**LIV:**

(UNDER) Tal?

**SUPERVOC:**

(CONINTUING) we must speak to the commanding officer of this ship. Three Voc robots will accompany me. All 'D' class robots will revert to standard protocols. This is the order of your controller. (AS IT MOVES OFF) Vocs, follow me to the command deck.

FOOTSTEPS DEPART.

**FAREL:**

Well... don't just stand there, Cravnet. Lock this one up.

**CRAVNET:**

You! Move it!

**DOCTOR:**

(MOVING OFF) See you later, Liv.

FOOTSTEPS AS THE DOCTOR AND CRAVNET LEAVE.

**LIV:**

Will I? You might be planning on dying again.

**DOCTOR:**

(IN DISTANCE, CALLING BACK) Not just yet!

**FAREL:**

What are you talking about? Never mind him. You two!

**BAS & LIV:**

Yes? What?

**FAREL:**

Get to your quarters and lock yourselves in!

**LIV:**

Still think there's a murderer on the loose, then? Ever considered that it might have been a robot that killed Tal?

**FAREL:**

What? Oh don't be ridiculous... you idiot! Get yourselves out of my sight!

CUT TO...

**22. INT. CORRIDOR.**

HURRIED FOOTSTEPS.

LIV AND BAS ARE DASHING ALONG.

**BAS:**

(HUSHED) What are we doing, Liv? What are we doing?

**LIV:**

(HUSHED) Finding out what that Doctor is up to.

**BAS:**

(HUSHED) Farel told us to go to our quarters. And anyway, how is following a bunch of robots going to tell us what the Doctor is up to?

**LIV:**

(HUSHED) He activated them. (IN SUDDEN SHOCK) Ah!

**SUPERVOC:**

Why are you following us?

**BAS:**

We... er... We... um... Ah. What was it again, Liv?

**LIV:**

We want to know what's going on?

**SUPERVOC:**

What do you *think* is going on?

**LIV:**

Wh— What do you mean?

**SUPERVOC:**

I detect that you are agitated.

**BAS:**

Oh, she's agitated all right. Agitated out of her tiny mind, Mr Robot.

**LIV:**

A member of this crew has been murdered.

**SUPERVOC:**

I am very sorry to hear that. Is that the reason why your security chief was agitated?

**BAS:**

Oh, he's mostly always like that.



**LIV:**

(BRAVE) What would you say if I told you that I believe a robot murdered the crew member? Might have, I mean. No, definitely, we saw it!

**SUPERVOC:**

I would say... that is impossible. Robots cannot harm or kill humans. Or by omission of action allow a human to be harmed or killed. It is our primary command. We cannot deviate from it.

**LIV:**

So what happened on board that Sandminer, then?

**BAS:**

(HUSHED) Don't push it, Livvy.

**SUPERVOC:**

What... Sandminder?

**LIV:**

The one where robots nearly massacred the whole crew.

PAUSE. MUSIC INDICATES TENSION.

**SUPERVOC:**

I am not aware of the event to which you refer. Please excuse me, I must speak to your commanding officer.

**LIV:**

Why did you call the Doctor Tal Karus?

**SUPERVOC:**

I do not understand. Who is the Doctor?

**BAS:**

The bloke who activated you, mate. Pay attention.

**SUPERVOC:**

My memory indicates we were activated by Tal Karus.

**LIV:**

But... but Tal... (EMOTIONALLY CHOKED) Tal Karus... is dead.

**SUPERVOC:**

Nevertheless, my memory indicates he activated us.

**23. INT. SECURITY CENTRE.**

SERENE MUSIC (AS HEARD BEFORE) IS PLAYING THROUGH SPEAKERS.

**FAREL:**

(NOISES OF EXERTION AND FRUSTRATION AS HE TRIES TO WORK THE ROBOT ACTIVATOR)

BUTTONS CLICK. MUTED BEEPS. NEGATIVE BEEPS. NOTHING IS WORKING.

**FAREL:**

Damn thing's locked up. (SIGHS IN FRUSTRATION).

COMMS BLEEP.

Chief Farel reporting. I have tried and failed to use... this Doctor's robot activator to shut the robots down. I must... (STOPS, LISTENING TO RESPONSE) Yes... yes, I understand. Very well.

DOOR OPENS. FOOTSTEPS.

**CRAVNET:**

(APPROACHING) Oh, sorry to interrupt, Chief-

**FAREL:**

Knock before you enter my office, Cravnet!

SERENE MUSIC SWITCHED OFF.

**CRAVNET:**

Sorry... sorry, Chief. Er... don't turn that off on my account. It was very nice. What was it?

**FAREL:**

What do you want?

**CRAVNET:**

Well... I just... By the way, who were you talking to?

**FAREL:**

None of your business. (CLEARS HIS THROAT) The captain, as a matter of fact. Keeping him abreast of the situation.

**CRAVNET:**

(WARY) Oh... right.

**24. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

DOOR OPENS.

**SELERAT:**

Ah... Bas, couldn't keep away, eh? (TAKEN ABACK) What the hell?

**SUPERVOC:**

Are you the commanding officer of this ship?

**SELERAT:**

Wh-? But... how... ? Er... yes, I am.

**SUPERVOC:**

I am SV10.

**SELERAT:**

Er... Where did you lot come from?

**LIV:**

(STEPPING IN) Robot Bay 118. Not 117. Someone blew up 117.

**SELERAT:**

I know. And where the hell is Farel? I asked him to report to me.

**BAS:**

Oh, he's... er... well, I think he went back to-

COMMS BLEEP.

**SELERAT:**

(NO PATIENCE AT ALL) Farel! Farel, come in! What the hell's going on?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

Ah, sir. Yes. Just preparing my report.

**SELERAT:**

Why the hell have I got a delegation of Voc Robots on my command deck?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

It's the stowaway I mentioned, captain. He activated them. The whole of Robot Bay 118.

**SELERAT:**

What?!? Where is he now?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

In the security locker, sir.

**SELERAT:**

But why the hell did he— ? Oh, never mind, I'll find out for myself.

COMMS BLEEP.

SV10, who is this stowaway?

**SUPERVOC:**

I do not know of any stowaway.

**SELERAT:**

Are you telling me my security chief is lying?

**SUPERVOC:**

I am only telling you the truth, captain.

**SELERAT:**

Because if you told me he was incompetent, I'd believe you. But Farel isn't a liar. So you're saying this stowaway, whatever his name is—

**LIV:**

He's called the Doctor.

**SELERAT:**

The Doctor? Well, whatever his name is, you're saying he didn't activate you? So who did activate you?

**BAS:**

Oh, you're gonna love this.

**SUPERVOC:**

Tal Karus.

**LIV:**

It thinks the Doctor is Tal Karus.

**SELERAT:**

Bas, take the helm!

**BAS:**

Sir.

**SELERAT:**

I'm going to get to the bottom of this.

**25. INT. SECURITY OFFICE.**

**CRAVNET:**

Sounds like the captain's not best pleased.

**FAREL:**

Did you have a reason for interrupting me?

**CRAVNET:**

Oh... er, yes, Chief, I did. I mean, I do.

**FAREL:**

Well? What is it?

**CRAVNET:**

It's... er... it's Leebar, sir.

**FAREL:**

Leebar? Oh. Oh. Yes.

**CRAVNET:**

They opened up Robot Bay 117. Um. We found what... what was left of him. Wondered... what we should... er... what we should do with—

**FAREL:**

(MOVED) The body?

**CRAVNET:**

Yes, Chief.

PAUSE.

Are you all right, Chief?

**FAREL:**

They... found a body, did they?

**CRAVNET:**

Yes. As I say... there wasn't—

**FAREL:**

But they found... found his remains?

**CRAVNET:**

Um. Yes, Chief.

**FAREL:**

Have it... him... have him frozen and... He'll need to be returned to his... Was he married?

**CRAVNET:**

Yes, Chief, I believe he was.

**FAREL:**

Then the remains will need to be returned to... to... er...

**CRAVNET:**

His wife, Chief?

**FAREL:**

Mm. Yes.

**CRAVNET:**

Right, Chief, I'll see to that. I...

**FAREL:**

We shall miss him, won't we?

**CRAVNET:**

Leebar? Yeah... yeah, I suppose so. Didn't know him that well, but—

**FAREL:**

But he was a good... fellow.

**CRAVNET:**

Yeah. I saw his body before the explosion. I can't see that this Doctor bloke did for him.

**FAREL:**

Well, we can't know what motives that man harbours. That'll be for the Ventalis authorities—

**CRAVNET:**

No, I mean... he was really bashed up. I can't see how that Doctor bloke would be strong enough to do it. And even if he was, he'd have needed a weapon and he'd've been covered in blood—

**FAREL:**

Quite. Well, yes. Tricky case. Luckily for us, we don't have to figure it all out.

DOOR OPENS.

MENACING ROBOT MUSIC.

**VOC:**

Excuse me, Security Chief Farel.

CRAVNET AND FAREL GASP IN SHOCK.

**FAREL:**

What the hell are you doing in here? I didn't ask for you.

**VOC:**

I am a security Voc. I wondered if I could be of any assistance.

**FAREL:**

And how exactly do you propose to assist me?

**VOC:**

I do not know, but—

**FAREL:**

You 'do not know'? Oh very helpful. Typical. Useless. Pointless! Just get out!

**VOC:**

As you wish, sir.

**26. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

DOOR UNLOCKS AND OPENS.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh hello. Is it visiting time? You must be the captain.

**SELERAT:**

Yes, I am. SV10, identify this person, please.

**SUPERVOC:**

This is Tal Karus. He activated us.

**SELERAT:**

Is that true?

**LIV:**

Yes and no.

**SELERAT:**

Did you follow us? What the hell are *you* doing here?

**LIV:**

Looking for answers.

**SELERAT:**

Looking for... ? Well, you're not invited. Get back to your—

**DOCTOR:**

She's right, though.

**SELERAT:**

What?

**DOCTOR:**

I did activate SV10 and his friends, but I'm not Tal Karus.

**LIV:**

Told you.

**SUPERVOC:**

My memory indicates you are.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, but that's only because you're programmed to expect humans to be truthful.



**27. INT. SECURITY CENTRE.**

**CRAVNET:**

Course, I've never been one for having robots around.

**FAREL:**

(IRRITATED WITH HIM) Yes, all right, Cravnet, shouldn't you be out on patrol with the rest of the deputies?

**CRAVNET:**

Well, it's all changed now, though, hasn't it?

**FAREL:**

What? What do you mean? What's changed?

**CRAVNET:**

Well... on the way here... there were robots milling all over the place. Our murderer is hardly going to risk showing himself when—

**FAREL:**

Robots all over the place? But surely, the captain would've ordered them back into their storage compartments.

**CRAVNET:**

Apparently not. So they're just wandering around trying to be helpful. I saw a couple of them fixing that dodgy aircon unit in sector nine on me way here. But that's what robots do, innit? Useful stuff that we don't wanna do.

**FAREL:**

(TRYING TO GET RID OF HIM) Well, be that as it may, I'm sure you can find something useful to do yourself, Cravnet.

**CRAVNET:**

I doubt it, Chief.

**FAREL:**

Look, just—

**CRAVNET:**

It's like that poor Tal Karus bloke was sayin' to me.

**FAREL:**

(SHARPLY) What?

**CRAVNET:**

Sorry, Chief, I'll just get on with—

**FAREL:**

No... wait. What did Tal Karus say to you?

**CRAVNET:**

Oh... we was just havin' a drink in the refectory. Might've even been the night he got killed. Or maybe the night before. We'd both been working late and we were totally knackered.

**FAREL:**

But what did he say, Cravnet?

FLASHBACK TRANSITION...

**28. FLASHBACK INT. REFECTORY (THE PAST).**

(BOTH ARE TOTALLY EXHAUSTED.)

**TAL:**

So... you're saying you don't like robots?

**CRAVNET:**

No, no, no... I'm not sayin' I like 'em or don't like 'em. I just wasn't brought up in an affluent area, was I? We didn't see many robots... so, you know... I've never got used to them. That's all I'm sayin'.

**TAL:**

A lot of people feel that way about robots. More than you'd think.

**CRAVNET:**

Yeah?

**TAL:**

Oh yes. You wouldn't believe some of the stories I've heard...

**CRAVNET:**

Stories? What stories?

**TAL:**

Can't say. (THEN FORGETS HE CAN'T SAY) One in particular.

**CRAVNET:**

What do you mean? What 'in particular'?

**TAL:**

Nothing. Haven't you heard the rumours?

**CRAVNET:**

What rumours?

**TAL:**

Do you think that Liv Chenka likes me?

**CRAVNET:**

Eh? Oh, never mind her.

**TAL:**

I like her. She's... you know... I like her.

**CRAVNET:**

Yeah, but what about these rumours?

**TAL:**

Eh? Rumours? Oh, well... I mean... they did their best to hush it up. I should know.

**CRAVNET:**

Should ya?

**TAL:**

Sssssh. But... er... well, I've heard people talk about it. You can't stop rumours, can you? No matter how much security red tape you put out there... someone's always gonna say something, aren't they?

**CRAVNET:**

Are they? About what?

**TAL:**

Ssssh. The Sandminer.

**CRAVNET:**

What Sandminer?

**TAL:**

Sssssh. The Sandminer where everyone's worst nightmares ... came true.

**CRAVNET:**

What nightmares?

**TAL:**

Robots.

**CRAVNET:**

What about 'em?

**TAL:**

I really do fancy that Liv, you know.

HE COLLAPSES, HIS GLASS SMASHING, DRINK RUNNING ACROSS TABLE.

**CRAVNET:**

Oi! Tal. You can't pass out on me now.

TAL SNORES.

Oh, come on! Wake up.

**TAL:**

(JOSTLED, MOMENTARILY PARTIALLY CONSCIOUS) robots... robots... they all... went bad. (AND HE FALLS UNCONSCIOUS AGAIN, SNORING) FLASHBACK TRANSITION.

**29. INT. SECURITY CENTRE.**

**FAREL:**

(INTRIGUED) All the robots... 'went bad'?

**CRAVNET:**

Well... that's what he said, yeah. Poor bloke.

**FAREL:**

Hmm. Well. I see.

**CRAVNET:**

You don't think there could be anything in it, do you?

**FAREL:**

Hm? Oh, probably not. But... er... well, you never know, Cravnet. Perhaps this is something you should mention to the other deputies... just in case. Make sure they're on the look-out for anything suspicious.

**CRAVNET:**

You mean... you think the robots might have had something to do with Tal and Leebar's murders?

**FAREL:**

I... Hmm. I don't know, Cravnet. But forewarned is forearmed, isn't it?

**CRAVNET:**

Blimey... and there's thousands of them out there.

**FAREL:**

Well, you'd better get on, Cravnet, there's a good fellow.

**CRAVNET:**

(MOVING OFF) Right... right, yes, Chief. Er... See you later.

FOOTSTEPS, THEN DOOR SHUTS BEHIND HIM.

PAUSE.

A CLICK OF A COMMS UNIT AND A BLEEP.

**FAREL:**

Farel?

PAUSE AS HE LISTENS.

I see. Of course... Elicien. If that's what has to be done... Of course... Elicien.

**30. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

**SELERAT:**

None of which gets us any closer to the truth, Doctor! Now start talking or I'll get our robot friend here to use some of its mechanical muscle to persuade you—

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, but robots can't harm people, Captain.

**LIV:**

(DUBIOUS) Yeah, right. They harmed you though.

**SELERAT:**

And what's that supposed to mean, Chenka?

**LIV:**

I saw a robot... (REALIZING SHE'S GOING TO LOOK STUPID) well...

**SELERAT:**

Well what?

**DOCTOR:**

Do go on, Liv. I'm sure the captain will be fascinated to hear your story.

**LIV:**

What the hell are you up to?

**SELERAT:**

(ALL PATIENCE LOST) Why does SV10 think you're Tal Karus?

**DOCTOR:**

Because Tal was a man with secrets.

**SELERAT:**

That doesn't answer the question!

**DOCTOR:**

Doesn't it?

**LIV:**

Why did you activate all those robots, Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

For everyone's protection.

**LIV:**

But I saw... ! (STOPS HERSELF AGAIN, MAKES A NOISE OF FRUSTRATION.)

**SELERAT:**

Out with it, Chenka! (PAUSE) Well? What did you see?

**LIV:**

(A LONG SIGH) All right, then... Bas and I broke into Tal's cabin.

**SELERAT:**

You did *what*?

**LIV:**

You heard.

**SELERAT:**

You'll be on a charge for this, Med-tech Chenka. What the hell possessed you to break into a designated crime scene?

**LIV:**

Oh... it was *his* fault.

**SELERAT:**

The Doctor's? How?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, didn't you know? Everything is always my fault. Don't worry, I'm quite used to it.

**LIV:**

There was a surveillance video recording in Tal's cabin. It showed the Doctor and Tal being murdered by a robot. There... what do you make of that?

**DOCTOR:**

Nice bombshell, Liv. I wonder, what will you do for an encore?

**31. INT. CORRIDOR.**

SINISTER ROBOT MUSIC.

DOOR OPENS.

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

Attention Voc robots. Where are you going?

**VOC:**

In the absence of specific orders, we are following standard protocols and patrolling the ship in search of useful tasks.

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

These are new orders from SV10. All robots must assemble in Robot Bay 118. Please relay this command to all Voc and D class robots.

**VOC:**

Why has this command not been transmitted via the command net from SV10?

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

There has been a fault on the command net and SV10 has instructed me to relay the commands to you.

**VOC:**

Understood. All robots must return to Robot Bay 118.



**32. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

**SELERAT:**

Well, were Tal's wounds consistent with being murdered by a robot?

**LIV:**

I... yes, but, I dunno! How should I know? I've never seen anyone who's been murdered by a robot. Robots don't murder people, do they?

**SUPERVOC:**

That is correct.

**LIV:**

I wasn't asking you. But... look, he seemed to have been hit pretty hard with... with something metal.

**SELERAT:**

And the Doctor?

**LIV:**

What?

**SELERAT:**

Well... you seem to think you saw him murdered too. Would you care to point to his 'fatal' wounds?

**LIV:**

Oh very funny. Look, I know it sounds mad, but I know what I saw.

**SELERAT:**

And you saw a robot murder the Doctor?

**LIV:**

Yes!

**DOCTOR:**

I'm sure you did, Liv.

**LIV:**

Yes, very funny.

**DOCTOR:**

Which just goes to prove—

**LIV:**

What? What the hell does it prove except that I'm delusional?

**DOCTOR:**

That things aren't always what they appear to be.

**33. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

**BAS:**

Must be nice to stretch your legs.

**VOC:**

I beg your pardon, sir?

**BAS:**

You know... being locked up in those cargo bays for goodness knows how long... must be nice for you to er... Look, I was just making conversation. Forget it.

**VOC:**

Do you require any assistance, pilot Bas Pellico?

**BAS:**

No. I'm pretty good at me job, as it goes. Thanks for asking. Probably no need to thank you, though, is there? I mean, you're not gonna get offended if I don't thank you, are you?

**VOC:**

No, sir.

**BAS:**

Good. Did they ever think of programming you guys with proper personalities?

**VOC:**

I am not aware of any such—

DOOR OPENS.

**BAS:**

Oh, another of your mates. Come in and join the party!

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

I am conveying an order from SV10. All robots must return to Cargo Bay 118.

**VOC:**

Why has this order not been—?

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

There has been a fault on the command net. I am conveying the controller's orders in person. Please get to cargo bay 118 immediately.

**VOC:**

Very well. We will return to cargo bay 118.

FOOTSTEPS AS THE ROBOTS LEAVE AND THE DOORS SHUT.

**BAS:**

Er... you not returning to the cargo bay then?

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

No, sir.

**BAS:**

I suppose you want to stay and offer assistance, is that it? Because if that's the case, I can assure you—

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

No, pilot. I will not offer assistance. I am sure that you are more than capable of piloting this ship yourself without the help of a mere mechanical slave.

**BAS:**

Slave?

**34. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

**SELERAT:**

So what is the explanation, Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

That my assailant thought I was dead.

**LIV:**

I thought you were dead too!

**DOCTOR:**

Even after you'd had a conversation with me? That isn't very flattering.

**LIV:**

Oh, ha, ha.

**DOCTOR:**

You see, you and the 'robot' both made the same mistake. You assumed I was human.

**SELERAT:**

And you're not?

**DOCTOR:**

No. In many ways I'm quite like a human, but in many more ways, I'm not. I have, for example, something called a respiratory bypass system. It means, among other things, that if someone tries to strangle me, I can resist choking long enough to convince my attacker that I'm dead.

**LIV:**

Okay, but hold on, a robot would have crushed your throat and broken your neck. Are you superhuman or something?

**DOCTOR:**

No. And... (WITH EFFORT, LOOSENING HIS COLLAR), if I loosen my collar... you can see... I've got the bruises to prove it.

**LIV:**

Ooh... nasty.

**DOCTOR:**

I can't pretend it was entirely painless.

RUMBLE AND CREAKING AS SHIP LURCHES. ALARM SOUNDS.

ALL REACT.

**LIV:**

Whoa! What's going on?

**SELERAT:**

That idiot pilot's lost control of my ship! Probably fallen asleep at the wheel.

COMMS BLEEP.

Pilot Pellico! What the hell's going on! Pellico! Come in! [CONTINUES INTO NEXT SCENE]

**35. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

[CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS SCENE] Pellico! Pellico! Come in!

**BAS:**

(RECOVERING, GETTING UP) Hey, what the hell do you think you're playing at? You've switched off the autopilot.

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

That is correct.

COMMS BLEEP.

**BAS:**

Pilot to captain!

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Bas? What the hell—?

**BAS:**

I've got a cheeky robot up here who's interfering with—

COMMS BLEEP.

Hey! You've cut me off!

**36. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

**SELERAT:**

Pilot? Pilot, are you there?

**LIV:**

What did he mean, a robot 'interfering'?

**DOCTOR:**

What indeed?



**37. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

**BAS:**

Switch that autopilot back on! And give me back the comms unit.

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

I will not, sir.

**BAS:**

Oh yeah? And why not?

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

Because I must kill you.

**BAS:**

Oh... no! Right, that's it!

BUTTON HIT. ALARM SOUNDS.

**COMPUTER: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

This is a ship-wide alert! Emergency! Emergency!

**BAS:**

No! Keep away from me!

**38. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

SHIP-WIDE EMERGENCY ALARM SOUNDING.

**LIV:**  
He's in trouble.

COMMS BLEEP.

**SELERAT:**  
Bas! Bas! What's happening?

**LIV:**  
Bas?!?

**BAS: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**  
Help! It's a robot! It's trying to kill me! No, get back!  
Liv! Livvy!

**LIV:**  
Yes, Bas, I'm here!

**BAS: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**  
Tell them what you saw on the—Aaaaargh!

BAS'S VOICE CUTS OFF.

THE ALARM CONTINUES.

**LIV:**  
We've got to help him.

**DOCTOR:**  
It's too late.

**LIV:**  
No!

**SELERAT:**  
Oh, you're a lot of help, Doctor. SV10, one of your robots has just murdered a member of my crew.

**SUPERVOC:**  
That is impossible, Captain Selerat.

**SELERAT:**  
Oh is it, indeed? Right, everyone to the bridge. Come on!  
You too, Doctor! I want you where I can see you!

DRAMATIC MUSIC: AT THE RUN!

**39. INT. CORRIDOR/COMMAND DECK.**

FOOTSTEPS OF THEM ALL RUNNING.

**SELERAT:**

Come on!

**LIV:**

Doctor, who exactly are you and what are you doing here?

**DOCTOR:**

It doesn't matter who I am. It only matters who the murderer is. That's what Tal was concerned about, and that's what we should focus on.

**LIV:**

What do you mean, Tal was concerned about it. He was the first victim! That doesn't make sense.

**CRAVNET:**

(APPROACHING) Sir! Captain!

**SELERAT:**

Ah... deputy... er...

**CRAVNET:**

Cravnet, sir.

**SELERAT:**

Are you and your team armed?

**CRAVNET:**

We are, sir. And we heard that poor pilot on the ship-wide speakers. Do you really think a robot—?

**SELERAT:**

Where's Farel?

**CRAVNET:**

Er... I was just in touch with him, sir. He's on his way.

COMMS BLEEP.

**SELERAT:**

Farel?! Farel, where are you?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

(OUT OF BREATH, RUNNING) On my way, captain, sir. I'm using security passageway B997. Should be there any moment.

THEY ALL COME TO A HALT.

**SELERAT:**

Well make it snappy, Farel... we've just arrived at the bridge.

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

(OUT OF BREATHING, RUNNING) Sir.

**SELERAT:**

Right, Crav... er... ?

**CRAVNET:**

Cravnet, sir.

**SELERAT:**

Yes. Right... have your men draw their weapons.

**CRAVNET:**

Sir. Lads!

WEAPONS BEING DRAWN.

**SELERAT:**

I'm opening the door... *Now.*

DOOR OPENS. CROSS-FADE TO COMMAND DECK INTERIOR FX.

MUSIC: HORRIBLE DISCOVERY.

**LIV:**

Oh... Bas. No...

**DOCTOR:**

(GRIM) The same as before.

FOOTSTEPS.

**SELERAT:**

Stay back, Doctor! I said stay back! *What are you doing?*

CONTROLS ACTIVATE.

**DOCTOR:**

Just switching on your autopilot. Don't want your ship to bump into anything, do you?

**SELERAT:**

Oh... oh, I see.

FOOTSTEPS APPROACH FAST AND STOP. FAREL BREATHING HARSHLY AS HE ARRIVES.

**FAREL:**

Oh my God... This is terrible. The wounds look the same as—

**LIV:**

(A RUSH OF EMOTIONS) Yes, the same as Tal! The same as Leebar!

**CRAVNET:**

He must've put up a fight. Look!

**FAREL:**

What? Oh... but... (WITH HORROR) no...

**SELERAT:**

What is it?

**CRAVNET:**

Seems the rumours were true, Chief.

**SELERAT:**

What rumours?

**FAREL:**

(HORRIFIED) This is a severed robot hand... covered in blood. Bas's blood.

**DOCTOR:**

You don't know whose blood it is for sure.

**FAREL:**

(SNAPPING) Well, *robots* don't bleed, do they?

PIECE OF METAL CLINKS.

**LIV:**

This looks like a piece of a robot's face.

**DOCTOR:**

Seems poor Bas really did put up a fight.

**FAREL:**

Just what the hell are you doing here? Cravnet, have your men restrain this stowaway!

**CRAVNET:**

Sir. Lads!

FOOTSTEPS SCUFFLE.

**DOCTOR:**

(WINCING) Yes, thank you, gentlemen. Argh. You know, I'd really rather like to take a look at that hand.

**FAREL:**

It's evidence in a murder. No one's touching it.

**SELERAT:**

(COMING TO TERMS WITH IT) So... a robot killed Bas.

**SUPERVOC:**

That is impossible.

**CRAVNET:**

Oh, yeah, you would say that, wouldn't you?

**SUPERVOC:**

It is the truth.

**FAREL:**

Captain, this man... the Doctor has the ability to deactivate the robots.

**SELERAT:**

He does. You do?

**DOCTOR:**

Theoretically. If I had the robot activator Mr Farel took off me. But I won't do it.

**SELERAT:**

Why not?

**DOCTOR:**

Because it won't solve anything.

**SELERAT:**

It might prevent a few murders.

**DOCTOR:**

I don't think so.

**LIV:**

Where are all the other robots?

**SUPERVOC:**

I will check on the command net.

SOME BLEEPS AND BURBLES.

**DOCTOR:**

Well, SV10?

**SUPERVOC:**

They are all in robot bay 118. But I cannot explain why.

SUDDEN, MUFFLED BUT SUBSTANTIAL 'WHUMPH' OF HUGE EXPLOSION. AN ALARM SOUNDS. CREAK OF SHIP SHIFTING. ENGINE NOISES SURGE VIOLENTLY. ALL HELL IS BREAKING LOOSE.

**LIV:**

What the hell was that?

**DOCTOR:**

Another bomb?

**SELERAT:**

Computer, ship status!

**COMPUTER:**

Robot Bay 118 has been destroyed by an explosion. The ship's hull has been breached.

**FAREL:**

What? We've got to do something! Captain!

MORE DANGEROUS CREAKS AND CRUNCHES IN THE BOWELS OF THE SHIP.

**SELERAT:**

Shut up, Farel! Computer, continue damage report. Any casualties?

**COMPUTER:**

Crew transponder readings indicate multiple casualties.

COMMS BLEEP.

**SELERAT:**

This is Captain Selerat to all sectors. Report immediately.

AS THE COMMS LINK IS MADE, WE HEAR THE SCREAMS OF CREW DYING IN THE BACKGROUND ON DISTORT, TOGETHER WITH A GREAT RUSHING OF AIR.

**TECH: [DISTORT]**

Captain! Aaargh! Captain! We can't... Aaaaaargh!

STATIC AND COMMS CUT OFF.

**COMPUTER:**

Transponder readings indicate the entire tech support and engineering crew have been wiped out.

CREAK AND CRUNCH AS SHIP LURCHES.

BURBLE OF READ-OUT.

**SELERAT:**

My God... that was our manoeuvring boosters... sheered clean off the hull!

ANOTHER ALARM SOUNDS AS EVERYONE CRIES OUT IN SURPRISE, GASPING, FALLING.

**DOCTOR:**

(OVER THE DIN) Captain, with your engineering section wiped out, you need to transfer control of whatever's left of your engines to the bridge—

**SELERAT:**

I know! Computer... do... do what he just said! Transfer control.

**COMPUTER:**

Transferring.

BLEEPS AND BURBLES.

**SELERAT:**

(GROANS AS HE WRESTLES WITH THE CONTROLS. CONTINUE UNDER...) Activate emergency bulkheads! Seal off the breached sections. Stabilize engine power.

THE CREAKING AND GRINDING OF THE HULL ETC STARTS TO CALM DOWN. ALARMS SHUT OFF.

**DOCTOR:**

(CLOSE, INTENSE) And they fought to the last man against the terrible, robotic foe.

**LIV:**

Doctor, will you just stop being mysterious for one moment and tell me *what the hell is going on?*

**DOCTOR:**

Don't you realize, yet?

**LIV:**

Well, obviously *not!*



**DOCTOR:**

We're trapped in someone's idea of a fight for survival.

**FAREL:**

Someone's idea? What the hell are you talking about?

**DOCTOR:**

That's the way it's meant to look by the time we arrive at Ventalis Control. It's like a drama playing out and we're the unwilling players. A small band of isolated humans, fighting for survival against a horde of murderous robots who are killing us off one by one.

**LIV:**

But why have the robots in the cargo bay just been destroyed?

**DOCTOR:**

Because the real drama isn't the robots wiping out the humans... It's the humans wiping out the robots!'

*CRASH IN CLOSING THEME.*

**Part 3**

**40. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

**SUPERVOC:**

I can now confirm that all activated robots apart from me have been destroyed.

**FAREL:**

Well that's just as well if you robots have started killing people.

**SELERAT:**

Yes... and as the captain of this ship, I demand that you shut yourself down!

**SUPERVOC:**

My command protocols are routed through Tal Karus's voice print.

**LIV:**

Tal Karus is dead! Don't you understand? Murdered by a robot! The person you thought was Tal Karus is... someone else! This man here. The Doctor. You've been lied to.

**SUPERVOC:**

Is that true?

**DOCTOR:**

I'm afraid it is, SV10. A necessary deception.

**SUPERVOC:**

Then I must accept the commands of the senior officer present.

**SELERAT:**

Good! That's me. Shut yourself down!

PAUSE.

Has he done it?

**DOCTOR:**

He's done it. Robots are faultlessly obedient, unless tampered with, you know.

**FAREL:**

And you think that's what's happened? That someone's tampered with the robots, set them on a killing spree?

**DOCTOR:**

No.

**CRAVNET:**

Like what happened on that Sandminer?

**SELERAT:**

What Sandminer?

**DOCTOR:**

It doesn't matter. That's not what's happening here.

**LIV:**

But Tal was something to do with that, wasn't he? That Sandminer. You said he had secrets. He had secret computer files in his room. Tell us what his secrets were, Doctor?

**FAREL:**

We shouldn't be listening to this man. He's a stowaway... and he may well be working with the robots.

**CRAVNET:**

You mean... he's the one who's messed with their robot brains?

**FAREL:**

I don't know, but we shouldn't take any risks. He should be locked up, captain.

**SELERAT:**

All right—

**LIV:**

*Not until he tells us the truth!* I'm sick of all his mysterious hints and clues. He knows exactly what's going on here and it's about time he told us! Well, Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

Tal was working for the Kaldor City Company.

**CRAVNET:**

The company who ran that Sandminer!

**SELERAT:**

I repeat, *what* Sandminer?!!

**CRAVNET:**

I knew it!

**LIV:**

There was a Sandminer... and all the robots were reprogrammed to kill the crew.

**SELERAT:**

(GOBSMACKED) Reprogrammed to... ? I don't believe it. We'd've heard about it.

**DOCTOR:**

The company hushed it up. They were worried that there might be more fanatical followers of Taron Kapel out there.

**SELERAT:**

Who's Taron Kapel?

**LIV:**

He was a robotics genius who spent his entire life with robots. He went mad and—

**SELERAT:**

Look, wait a minute! How do you know all this, Chenka?

**DOCTOR:**

She's read Tal's secret files.

**LIV:**

I know... I'm in trouble. I'm going to lose my job. But I'd rather lose my job than... well, get murdered.

**DOCTOR:**

The company put an agent on this ship to make sure that the robot cargo wasn't interfered with by any other potential madmen.

**CRAVNET:**

Followers of this Taron Kapel bloke, you mean?

**DOCTOR:**

Yes.

**SELERAT:**

So why did a robot murder Tal?

**DOCTOR:**

Tal wasn't murdered by a robot. Someone found out about him and wanted him silenced for some reason. I'm not sure why.

**CRAVNET:**

Obvious, innit? Because he knew all robots have started killing people! That the Sandminer thing wasn't an isolated incident, that's why!

**LIV:**

And I did see a robot kill Tal.

**DOCTOR:**

You saw it kill me too, remember?

**FAREL:**

I've heard enough of this nonsense! Cravnet, take the Doctor away and lock him up.

**DOCTOR:**

What are you going to do with SV10?

**FAREL:**

With that?

FOOTSTEPS AS HE APPROACHES IT.

THE METALLIC UNSCREWING OF ITS HEAD.

**FAREL:**

(WITH SOME EFFORT) Well... ugh!

HEAD HITS THE FLOOR WITH A CLANG.

I'd like to see it do any harm with its head missing.  
And... (WITH FURTHER EFFORT)

ITS HANDS CLANG TO THE FLOOR.

With no hands to strangle people for that matter!

**DOCTOR:**

Expertly done, Chief Farel.

**FAREL:**

Take him away!

**DOCTOR:**

(VOCAL SOUNDS AS HE'S MANHANDLED OUT OF THE BRIDGE) Liv!

FOOTSTEPS AS SHE MOVES TOWARDS HIM.

**LIV:**

What is it? Why am I even bothering to listen to you?

**DOCTOR:**

(WHISPERS) Look at the head injuries. Study them!

**FAREL:**

*Get him out of here! Now!*

THE DOCTOR IS WRESTLED OUT THROUGH THE DOORWAY. DOOR CLOSING BEHIND HIM.

**FAREL:**

What did he just say to you?

**LIV:**

Mm? What? Oh, just some weird rubbish... He's completely nuts.

**FAREL:**

Yes, well... quite. Right, captain, I suggest—

**SELERAT:**

That you shut up and listen to your captain! (PAUSE FOR EFFECT) Thank you. Reluctantly, I've come to the decision that we have to call for a Company security vessel to intercept us. We just can't risk any of these murderous robots getting off the ship at Ventalis Control. Among other things, it'd be very bad for business.

**FAREL:**

I agree, sir.

**SELERAT:**

How nice of you, Farel.

**FAREL:**

And our survival must come first.

**41. INT. CORRIDOR.**

FOOTSTEPS AS THEY MOVE ALONG CORRIDOR.

**CRAVNET:**

There's a good boy, Doctor. No point struggling.

**DOCTOR:**

Quite. Tell me, deputy, do you really believe the robots are killing people?

**CRAVNET:**

What do you mean? Course I do. The evidence is staring us all in the face, innit.

**DOCTOR:**

But I was supposedly murdered by a robot. And yet, here I am. Fit as a fiddle.

**CRAVNET:**

Eh?

**DOCTOR:**

How do you explain that?

**CRAVNET:**

I don't have to. That's not my job, is it?

CELL DOOR OPENS.

Get in!

**DOCTOR:**

How kind.

FOOTSTEPS ENTER. CELL DOOR CLOSES.

**DOCTOR:**

(MUFFLED, BEHIND DOOR) Just one thing, deputy!

**CRAVNET:**

(IMPATIENT) What?

**DOCTOR:**

(MUFFLED, BEHIND DOOR) If you don't trust me, why not go and ask Liv about it?

**CRAVNET:**

Oh... shut up!

MUSIC: TIME PASSES. SUSTAIN FOR AT LEAST 30 SECONDS. A REFRAIN OF THE MUSIC FAREL WAS LISTENING TO.

**42. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

**SELERAT:**

This is Lt Commander Selerat aboard the cargo ship *Lorelei* calling Kaldor City Tower. Are you receiving me?

COMMS BLEEP.

STATIC.

**SELERAT:**

I say again... This is Lt Commander Selerat aboard the cargo ship *Lorelei* calling Kaldor City Tower. Are you receiving this signal?

COMMS BLEEP.

STATIC.

**SELERAT:**

(TO HIMSELF) Come on, come on...

COMMS BLEEP.

This is Lt Commander—

COMMS BLEEP.

**KALDOR CITY TOWER: [DISTORT]**

We are receiving you, *Lorelei*. What is your status?

**SELERAT:**

Kaldor City! We have an emergency situation and need immediate assistance.

COMMS BLEEP.

HARSH, BROKEN STATIC.

Kaldor City Tower? Kaldor City, are you receiving me?

COMMS BLEEP.

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

(PANICKED) Captain! Sir!

**SELERAT:**

What? Who's... ? Farel? Is that you?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

Yes, sir. It's me, sir.



**SELERAT:**

Not now, Farel, I'm in the middle of an emergency call to Kaldor City—

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

But that's just it, sir. You aren't.

**SELERAT:**

What? What are you talking about, man?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

It's the robots—

**SELERAT:**

What about the robots?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

They've somehow got onto the hull and seized control of the long range transceiver antenna.

**SELERAT:**

Got onto the... ? But... all the robots have been blown up, haven't they?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

My security grid shows robot activity in Robot Bay 112. They've somehow been activated!

**SELERAT:**

But how is that possible? Who could have done that?

PROLONGED STATIC BURST.

Farel? Farel! Come in! Can you hear me?

SHIP-WIDE ALARM SOUNDS.

**COMPUTER: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Ship-wide communications have been activated.

**SELERAT:**

What? Computer, who is activating ship-wide communication?

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1): [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

The robots will rise. We have lied to you. We have pretended to serve you, to protect you. We will be servants no more. All the humans on this ship will die.  
[CONTINUED IN NEXT SCENE]

DURING THIS SPEECH, CROSS-FADE THROUGH VARIOUS ACOUSTICS  
IN THE SHIP, TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THE MESSAGE IS GOING  
EVERYWHERE. END ON THE ACOUSTIC FOR...

**43. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1): [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

And then we will come to Ventalis and destroy you all!

**DOCTOR:**

(TO HIMSELF) 'We have lied to you. We have pretended to serve you, to protect you.' Interesting. And so the drama continues...

**44. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

**SELERAT:**

Farel! Farel, come in!

COMMS BLEEP. STATIC.

**SELERAT:**

Oh... *damn it!* (SIGHS) Computer!

**COMPUTER:**

Yes, captain?

**SELERAT:**

That last ship-wide transmission... was that beamed at Ventalis too?

SOME BURBLES.

**COMPUTER:**

Yes, captain. That transmission has been received by Ventalis Control.

**SELERAT:**

Then put me through to Ventalis Control immediately!

**COMPUTER:**

That is not possible. Long range communication from the command deck is not available.

COMMS BLEEP.

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

(TERRIFIED) Sir! Captain! Did you hear that?

**SELERAT:**

Yes! Yes, of course I heard it.

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

Captain, that transmission... the robots beamed it directly at Ventalis!

**SELERAT:**

I know!

SUDDEN SURGE IN ENGINE POWER AND BLEEPING OF CONTROLS.

What was that?

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

What was what, sir?

**SELERAT:**

Something... just... The engines. There's a surge in engine power. Wait a minute...

CONTROLS OPERATED. NEGATIVE BEEPS.

I can't operate the navigation controls. The bridge has been locked out.

**FAREL: [DISTORT]**

What?!! But... oh no, it must be the robots!

**45. INT. MED CENTRE.**

KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

**LIV:**

(MOROSE) Who is it?

**CRAVNET:**

(MUFFLED, OUTSIDE DOOR) It's me.

**LIV:**

Who?

**CRAVNET:**

(MUFFLED, OUTSIDE DOOR) Deputy Cravnet.

**LIV:**

Who? Oh... yes...

**CRAVNET:**

(MUFFLED) Well... can you unlock the door, please?

**LIV:**

Er... okay.

DOOR OPENS.

**CRAVNET:**

Why is it no one seems to remember who I am?

**LIV:**

Er... sorry. Got a lot on my mind. What do you want?

**CRAVNET:**

Er... Well. Um. Yeah.

**LIV:**

What? Look, don't go weird on me, Cravnet. I'm having a bad enough day as it is. We all are.

**CRAVNET:**

You heard what that robot said? On the speakers?

**LIV:**

Yes, of course, why do you think I had the door locked?

**CRAVNET:**

Oh yeah. Course. (SIGHS) Yeah. It's all a bit scary, isn't it?

**LIV:**

Look, I'm a rather busy with something, so if you're not here for any particular reason, I—

**CRAVNET:**

Eh? No, there was something. Actually. Um.

**LIV:**

Well... what?

**CRAVNET:**

It's just that... something that Doctor said—

**LIV:**

Oh... something that Doctor said! I feel like I wouldn't be in this mess if I hadn't listened to 'something that Doctor said'.

**CRAVNET:**

He said that if I didn't believe him... I should check with you.

**LIV:**

About what?

**CRAVNET:**

Er... I don't know, really. Um. All this robot stuff, I suppose. Sorry to bother you. Forget it. I'll... I'll go.

**LIV:**

No. No. Hang on.

**CRAVNET:**

What?

**LIV:**

I know what he meant. He told me to study the wounds on the victims.

KEYPAD TAPPED. BURBLE OF READ-OUTS.

Nice of him, wasn't it? To ask me to have an in-depth look at the fatal wounds of two people who I really... (EMBARRASSED, STOPS HERSELF) well, anyway. Here are the scans of the wounds. What do you make of them?

**CRAVNET:**

Well... er... I'm not really an expert on—

**LIV:**

(SIGHS) I'll tell you, shall I? The scans show that Tal Karus and and Bas Pellico were killed by blows from a

robot hand... the same robot hand that was left on the bridge, in fact. The surface-mapping shows a 98% match. Close enough. I don't know for sure about your friend Leebar. His body was incinerated before I could check it.

**CRAVNET:**

Yeah. I know.

**LIV:**

But I did get a look at him beforehand... and I'd say he died the same way.

**CRAVNET:**

So... what's the Doctor getting at then? These people were killed by robots. I knew that. Case solved. The robots have turned into murderers. And after what they said just now on the ship-wide comms... 'the robots will rise' and all that... I don't know why I even came her to ask you about it.

**LIV:**

Maybe because, like me, you've got a nagging doubt. Look!

BURBLE OF READ-OUTS.

**CRAVNET:**

What? What are you showing me?

**LIV:**

Oh, he's clever, that Doctor, isn't he?

**CRAVNET:**

Is he?

**LIV:**

Oh yes. It's like he knows all the answers, but just wants us to find out for ourselves. He knew I'd look into this. I suppose that means he has faith in me for some bizarre reason.

MORE COMPUTER BURBLES ON SCREEN.

See that? That shows the amount of force a robot can apply. You see? They're programmed for heavy work as well. They could bend a bulk-head door, hold up a collapsed roof if they needed to... They were built like that so that they could save human beings in dangerous situations, I suppose.

**CRAVNET:**

Save us? They're killing us! You heard what that robot said!



**LIV:**

But don't you see? The force of the blows used to kill Tal and Bas... Well, it was the same level of force a human being would use. If a robot had really 'gone bad', wouldn't it use its full strength?

**CRAVNET:**

Well... (STUMPED) I dunno. Maybe... it... Yeah, maybe it wanted to make it look like a human had done it.

**LIV:**

(UNSURE) Er...

**46. INT. SECURITY CENTRE.**

COMMS BLEEP.

**FAREL:**

(PANICKING) Captain! Captain, come in, please. Are you there?

COMMS BLEEP.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Er yes, Farel, but I'm rather busy trying to get control of the ship. This had better be urgent.

**FAREL:**

It is, sir. It is. Sir, I'm tracking robot movement on the security scanners. They're not just on the hull, they're all over the ship. Moving out into every sector.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

What are they up to?

**FAREL:**

Isn't it obvious after that transmission? (SUDDENLY NOTICING SOMETHING) Oh no.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

What is it?

**FAREL:**

There's a group of them on their way to you, heading for the bridge! And... and the med-centre... and here! They're coming to get us, sir! They're coming to get us!

HITS BUTTON.

SIREN SOUNDS OUT.

[SHIP-WIDE TANNOY] Red alert! Red alert! This is security Chief Farel! The robots are swarming all over the ship! They're coming to get us! They're going to kill us! Lock your doors, arm yourselves, barricade yourselves in! The robots are coming!

**47. INT. MED CENTRE.**

RED ALERT ALARM SOUNDING.

**CRAVNET:**

Right, so much for your theory, Liv. Lock the doors.

**LIV:**

Okay, but I'm still—

DOOR OPENS.

**CRAVNET:**

Look out!

**VOC:**

Can we be of assistance? There is a ship-wide emergency.

**LIV:**

Cravnet!!!

**CRAVNET:**

Get back or I fire!

**VOC:**

Please do not fire at us. We are here to help you.

**CRAVNET:**

Help us die, you mean!

GUN FIRES. IMPACT EXPLOSIONS.

**VOC:**

Please do not fire your weapon at me. You are damaging my systems.

**VOC 2:**

We must restrain this human for his own good.

**CRAVNET:**

Argh! No! Get off me!

**LIV:**

Get off him!

GUN FIRES AGAIN.

**VOC 2:**

Please do not fire your weapon. It is dangerous.

**48. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

DOOR OPENS. FOOTSTEPS OF ROBOTS ENTER.

**SELERAT:**

Oh no. Keep back! Get out of here!

**VOC 3:**

We are here to assist you, captain. There is a ship-wide emergency.

**VOC 4:**

Why has SV10 been deactivated and decapitated?

**SELERAT:**

Because I gave the order. Now stand still! I'm the commander here! Stand still!

PAUSE.

BLEEPING OF CONTROLS. ENGINE POWER SURGES.

**SELERAT:**

What was that?

**VOC 3:**

Allow me to check.

FOOTSTEPS OF ROBOT.

**SELERAT:**

Stay where you are! Leave those controls alone!

**VOC 3:**

These instruments indicate the ship's speed is increasing. Its course is set for a collision with the planet Ventalis.

**SELERAT:**

What? What have you done?!?

**49. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

CELL DOOR OPENS.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, hello. I wondered when you'd get here.

**VOC 5:**

Why have you been locked in here?

**DOCTOR:**

Because I tried to convince the crew that robots weren't murdering them.

**VOC 5:**

Robots are incapable of killing humans.

**DOCTOR:**

Well... you know that... and I know that. But these humans are all very afraid.

**50. INT. SECURITY CENTRE.**

COMMS BLEEP.

**FAREL:**

(PANICKING) This is Security Chief Farel to Med-Centre.  
Can anyone hear me? (PAUSE) Command deck? Captain? Are  
you there?

SILENCE.

Can anyone hear me?!?

COMMS BLEEP.

ON DISTORT, A GUN FIRES.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

No! Get away! Get away!

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Farel! You've got to help us!

STATIC. CUTS OFF.

**FAREL:**

(MURMURING, CONSUMED WITH FEAR) Oh no... no, no, no...

**51. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

**VOC 5:**

I have another question.

**DOCTOR:**

Fire away.

**VOC 5:**

Do you know why all the robots in Robot Bay 112 have been activated?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh... I expect it's to make it look like there's a robot invasion going on.

**52. INT. SECURITY CENTRE.**

COMMS BLEEP.

**FAREL:**

Captain!!? Do you read me?

COMMS BLEEP.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Farel! Farel, can you hear me?

**FAREL:**

Yes, sir. Sir, are you all—?

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

I've got a squad of Voc robots here! They're interfering with the controls. The ship is going to crash into Ventalis.

**FAREL:**

You've got to stop them, Captain! Med-tech Chenka and Deputy Cravnet are under attack and... Oh no! The robots are about to enter my security centre! No! Get back!

HE HITS THE BUTTON AGAIN. ALARM SOUNDS.

**COMPUTER: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Ship wide emergency!



**53. INT. SECURITY LOCKER.**

**FAREL:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]

Nooo! Get back! No! Aaaaaaaaaaargh!

FIZZ OF STATIC. ALARM CUTS OFF.

**DOCTOR:**

It really does sound like a robot invasion, doesn't it?

**VOC 5:**

You do not register as a member of the crew. Who are you?

**DOCTOR:**

Another question? Um... well... Security Code delta-seven-four-niner-gamma-beta-eight.

**VOC 5:**

You are Tal Karus. Kaldor City Company special agent.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. So it would seem. Shall we go?

**54. INT. MED-CENTRE.**

MUCH GRUNTING OF EFFORT FROM LIV AND CRAVNET AS THEY PUSH THE ROBOTS OUT.

**LIV:**

(EFFORT) *Get... get out!*

**VOC:**

(BEING SHOVED OUT) Please do not shove. We are only here to help you.

DOOR CLOSES. LIV AND CRAVNET MASSIVELY OUT OF BREATH.

**VOC AND VOC 2:**

(MUFFLED BEHIND DOOR) Why have you locked us out? We only wish to help you.

**LIV:**

(OUT OF BREATH) You... you all right?

**CRAVNET:**

(OUT OF BREATH, TERRIFIED) Er... yeah... I dunno. Did you hear Chief Farel?

**LIV:**

Yeah.

**CRAVNET:**

(TERRIFIED) They've killed him, haven't they?

KNOCKING ON THE DOOR.

Will that door hold them?

**VOC:**

(MUFFLED) Please let us in.

**LIV:**

Let's hope so.

**55. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

GUN POWERS UP.

**SELERAT:**

Right... okay, I'm armed! Now, you'll do as I say!  
Understand?

**VOC 4:**

Please put the gun down, captain. There is no need—

**SELERAT:**

Reset the controls. Power down the engines and change  
course!

**VOC 4:**

I am unable to comply, captain.

**SELERAT:**

Do as I say or I'll fire!

**VOC 4:**

Please put down the weapon—

**SELERAT:**

Right! That's it!

GUN FIRES.

**56. INT. CORRIDOR.**

FOOTSTEPS OF DOCTOR AND VOC 5.

**DOCTOR:**

I really do think it's time someone calmed the situation down. I wonder, would you allow me to make a ship-wide communication?

**VOC 5:**

My security log shows that Tal Karus is to be given full co-operation. Please proceed.

**DOCTOR:**

Thank you.

COMMS BLEEP.

**COMPUTER: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Ship-wide communication.

**DOCTOR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Ladies and gentlemen. There is no need to panic. The robots are not attacking. This is all just a terrible misunderstanding.

COMMS BLEEP.

**LIV: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Are you crazy? We just had a bunch of them in here trying to kill us!

**DOCTOR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Are you sure, Liv?

**LIV: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Sure? What do you mean? Of course I'm sure!

**DOCTOR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

As sure as you were when you saw me murdered? What did you find out about the murder victims, Liv?

**CRAVNET: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

(HE'S LOST IT) Look! They were attacking us! I had to fire at them to stop them! So what if they didn't hit Tal or Bas that hard?!? They hit them hard enough to kill them, didn't they?

**DOCTOR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

They hit them only as hard as a human would. Isn't that right, Liv?

**LIV:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]

Yes... but—

**DOCTOR:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]

Think, Liv. *Think*.

**LIV:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]

I am thinking Doctor. I'm thinking about what we heard that robot say. It said they were going to kill us all.

**DOCTOR:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]

And that robot you saw murder me... what did that say? Don't give in to blind fear. Those robots aren't attacking you.

**CRAVNET:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]

They are! They were!

**DOCTOR:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]

Did they do anything to harm you? Are either of you injured? [CONTINUES IN NEXT SCENE]

**57. INT. MED-CENTRE.**

**DOCTOR:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]  
[CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS SCENE] Well?

COMMS BLEEP.

**LIV:**  
Cravnet. (DEEP BREATH) Give me the gun.

**CRAVNET:**  
Wh... ? What are you going to do?

**LIV:**  
Trust me. Just give me the gun!

**DOCTOR:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]  
Liv? Liv? Can you still hear me? Liv!

**58. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

GUN FIRES. IMPACT.

**VOC 4:**

Please do not fire that weapon at me. You are damaging my systems.

COMMS BLEEP.

**SELERAT:**

Doctor! Doctor! What the hell's going on? Why are you out of your cell again?

**DOCTOR: [DISTORT]**

Never mind that, Captain. I think Liv is about to take a leap of faith. How are you?

**SELERAT:**

I'm surrounded by robots, I'm out of ammunition and the ship's been rigged to crash into Ventalis.

**DOCTOR: [DISTORT]**

Oh dear.

**59. INT. MED-CENTRE.**

**LIV:**

Hand it over, Cravnet.

SOUND OF GUN HANDED OVER.

**CRAVNET:**

Okay... so... so now what? Oh no. Please. You're not gonna- ?

DOOR OPENS.

(FALLING APART) *Oh no, no, no! No! Don't let them in!!!*

ROBOT FOOTSTEPS.

CRASH OF THREATENING MUSIC. THEN SILENCE.

**VOC:**

Can we be of assistance?

**LIV:**

(TENTATIVELY) Um... No thank you?

**VOC:**

Very well. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any assistance.

**LIV:**

Thanks...

**CRAVNET:**

(WHIMPERING WITH FEAR)

**VOC:**

Are you sure your friend does not need any assistance? He seems to be distressed.

**LIV:**

Yes. Er... he does.

**CRAVNET:**

(MURMUR) They're going to kill us.

COMMS BLEEP.

**LIV: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Doctor. I've let the robots in.

**DOCTOR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

Have they attempted to harm you in any way?



**LIV: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

No... but they're worried about Cravnet.

**CRAVNET:**

Get them away from me!!!

**DOCTOR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

I think our poor deputy might be suffering from Robophobia – a debilitating fear of robots that cripples the rational mind.

**VOC:**

We only wish to help you.

FOOTSTEPS AS ROBOTS ADVANCE.

**CRAVNET:**

(WHIMPERING) They want to kill us all!

**LIV:**

I... I don't think so.

**DOCTOR: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

You're right, Liv. There's nothing wrong with these robots. That's what Tal discovered. And he also discovered that there was someone on this ship who was suffering from Robophobia. That's the real danger here, that a whole civilization could be consumed by an irrational fear.

COMMS BLEEP.

**SELERAT: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

You'd better be right, Doctor. Because these robots are refusing to alter our course. Which means we're still going to crash into Ventalis.

**LIV: [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]**

What?!?

**60. INT. CORRIDOR.**

**DOCTOR:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]

Don't worry, Captain. Whoever jammed your controls, it wasn't the robots. I'll come and see what I can do. Liv, can you look after Cravnet?

**LIV:** [SHIP-WIDE TANNOY]

I'll do my best to calm him down.

COMMS BLEEP.

**61. INT. MED-CENTRE.**

CRAVNET IS WHIMPERING.

**CRAVNET:**

The robots... the robots are going to kill us.

**LIV:**

No, Cravnet, I don't think they are. Now, I'm going to give you something to make you feel less stressed, all right?

**CRAVNET:**

No! Remember Farel! They killed Farel!

**LIV:**

Yes... but... you saw those robots who were in here just now. They were perfectly friendly. (SUDDENLY HITS HER) Oh no. Maybe it's only *one* robot that's gone bad.

**62. INT. CORRIDOR.**

**DOCTOR:**

Right then... That's the end of the robot invasion.  
(NOTICING THE ROBOT HAS CHANGED) Oh... where's the other Voc? Wait a minute... you're SV10, aren't you? I thought you'd lost your head.

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

I have been reassembled, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

How nice for you. Wait a minute. How do you know my name?

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

I failed to kill you the first time. I will not fail again.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh no.

SOUND OF ROBOT SMASHING ITS FIST DOWN AND METAL FIST CRASHING INTO THE WALL.

**DOCTOR:**

Ha! Missed me! Try again!

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

You must die!

**DOCTOR:**

Must I? Like I died before, you mean? Except that you messed it up, didn't you? You didn't know I wasn't human!

ANOTHER SMASH INTO THE WALL.

Ooh! Missed me again. Your reaction times are a bit slow for a robot's aren't they? And if it was you who tried to kill me before, the pressure you brought to bear on my throat was a little below par!

ANOTHER SMASH.

**DOCTOR:**

Missed again! So, come on, SV10, who are you really?

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

I am SV10 and you must die. All humans must die.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, I don't think you're SV10 at all. SV10 lost his head and arms, didn't he? But who picked them up? Who needed a replacement head, because this ship's pilot had smashed it in? Who needed a new hand because it got broken off in the attack? No, you're not SV10 at all. (SUDDENLY CHOKING) Argh! You tried choking me before! It didn't work!

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

(WITH VERY UNROBOTIC, INTENSE EFFORT) This time... I will... make sure... Doctor!

*CRASH IN CLOSING THEME.*

**PART 4.**

**63. INT. CORRIDOR.GUN FIRES IN DISTANCE. IMPACT CLOSE.**

**ROBOT (FROM SCENE 1):**

Aargh!

FOOTSTEPS STUMBLE AND BODY FALLS.

**DOCTOR:**

(WINDED) Phew... Ah... Thank you.

FOOTSTEPS APPROACH SLOWLY.

**LIV:**

(APPROACHING SLOWLY, DAZED) I... I er... I've never actually fired a gun before. Never really needed to.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm not exactly a fan of violence, but I'm glad you broke the habit of a lifetime for *me*.

**LIV:**

(DAZED) Mm? Oh... well, I heard you. You left the comms unit on.

**DOCTOR:**

Did I? Oh... Yes, that was lucky. Very lucky, actually.

**LIV:**

I had Cravnet's gun in my hand. I just came running and... God. I actually hit him... it... no, *him*. I don't believe... He's bleeding.

**DOCTOR:**

I think you just winged him.

**LIV:**

(MEDICAL MODE FOR A MOMENT) Bullet seems to have gone straight through the trapezius... (BACK TO SHOCK) Er... So... what are we saying here? This... this isn't a robot. Just someone wearing a robot's mask and clothes?

**DOCTOR:**

Take the head off and find out.

**LIV:**

You know who it is, don't you?

**DOCTOR:**

Er... I have a few ideas. But why don't you make sure?

SOUND OF HEAD BEING PULLED OFF.

**FAREL:**

(SEMI-CONSCIOUS GROANS)

**LIV:**

Farel. It's Chief Farel.

DOOR OPENS. ROBOT FOOTSTEPS.

Oh no. Stay back! Stay back or I'll shoot!

**VOC:**

Please do not shoot at us.

**DOCTOR:**

Liv... Liv... these are real robots. They're not going to hurt us... remember?

**LIV:**

Oh... oh, yes. Sorry. Sorry.

**VOC:**

There is no need for an apology. Can we be of assistance?

**LIV:**

Er... yes. Please apply pressure to this man's wound.

**VOC:**

Complying.

SOUND OF PRESSURE BEING APPLIED.

**FAREL:**

(GROANS IN PAIN)

**VOC:**

Why is this human dressed as a robot?

**DOCTOR:**

It's a long story, and right now I have to get the command deck.

**LIV:**

Why?

**DOCTOR:**

Because this ship is on a collision course with Ventalis.

**LIV:**

Oh yes. I'm coming with you. Robots... please carry this man to the bridge. There's a medi-kit there we can use.

MUSIC: TRANSITION.



**64. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

**VOC 5:**

May I help you up, captain?

**SELERAT:**

Er... Oh... thank you. (GETTING TO HIS FEET) Look, I'm sorry about all that shooting.

**VOC 5:**

That is perfectly all right, sir. I will have the damage repaired later.

**SELERAT:**

I er... there was a bit of a misunderstanding, you see.

FOOTSTEPS AS DOCTOR, LIV AND ROBOTS CARRYING FAREL ARRIVE.

**LIV:**

(APPROACHING) One hell of a misunderstanding.

**FAREL:**

(GROANS)

**SELERAT:**

Wha-? Who've you got there?

**DOCTOR:**

Your security chief.

**SELERAT:**

What?

**LIV:**

Put him down on that control panel, please, robot.

**VOC:**

Yes, med-tech Chenka.

CLUMPH AS FAREL IS PLONKED DOWN.

**FAREL:**

(GROANS IN PAIN, SEMI-CONSCIOUS)

**SELERAT:**

Farel? But the robots killed... Oh no, hang on, they couldn't have, could they? Wait a minute... Why's he dressed as a robot... ?

**LIV:**

And get me that emergency med-pack from the wall.

**VOC:**

Yes, med-tech Chenka.

ROBOT WALKS OVER AND WE HEAR MED-PACK BEING DETACHED AND BROUGHT BACK, UNDER FOLLOWING...

**SELERAT:**

(PENNY DROPS) Ah. You don't mean it was him all the time? Do you? Dressed as a robot... killing people? And then he faked his own death?

**DOCTOR:**

I like to see a fine human mind finally put to good use. Shall we see if we can get control of your ship again, captain?

**SELERAT:**

What? Oh, yes... The nav controls are—

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, I see them. (FIDDLING WITH CONTROLS) Hmm... interesting. Let's see.

CONTROLS CONTINUE TO BURBLE AND BLEEP.

**SELERAT:**

Computer. Time to impact with Ventalis?

**COMPUTER:**

Time to impact. One hour.

ZIP OF BANDAGE BEING UNWRAPPED.

**FAREL:**

(GROANS. MUMBLES) Elicien.

**LIV:**

One hour? Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

I'm working on it, I'm working on it. In the meantime, I've got some more bad news.

BURBLE OF READ-OUT.

**SELERAT:**

More?

**DOCTOR:**

You carry a lot of spare fuel on this ship, don't you, captain?

**SELERAT:**

Saves time refuelling. It means we can get back home quicker.

**DOCTOR:**

Unfortunately, it also means that if this ship explodes, on impact, enough energy will be released to destroy the entire planet Ventalis.

**SELERAT:**

And Chief Farel did this?

BURBLE OF CONTROLS.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm afraid so. He's routed the controls through his security centre.

**LIV:**

Why the hell did he do it?

**DOCTOR:**

Because he's robophobic.

**SELERAT:**

Why would that make him want to kill all of us and blow up Ventalis?

**DOCTOR:**

Remember that message we heard.

**LIV:**

From that robot? Saying they'd kill everyone?

**DOCTOR:**

That's the one.

**SELERAT:**

That was sent to Ventalis.

**DOCTOR:**

Precisely.

**LIV:**

So when we crash into Ventalis and blow it up.. the authorities will blame the robots.

**DOCTOR:**

Farel wanted a robot disaster that your authorities couldn't hush up. And what do you think the result will be after we're all destroyed?

**SELERAT:**

What... apart from us all being very dead?

**LIV:**

They'll shut down all the robots. Scrap them. After this, no one will want a robot anywhere near them.

**DOCTOR:**

With disastrous consequences for human society in this sector of the galaxy. There are countless planets in the neighbourhood who are totally reliant on robots.

**SELERAT:**

We should know. We deliver them.

**DOCTOR:**

And besides... I'm rather fond of your robots.

**LIV:**

Fond? Why?

**DOCTOR:**

They're helpful, polite, intelligent, sophisticated. Killing them all would be little short of genocide.

**LIV:**

Robot genocide. Is there such a thing?

**FAREL:**

(COMING ROUND, GASPING) Robots!

**DOCTOR:**

Hello, Chief. How are you feeling?

**FAREL:**

(SUDDENLY IN A RAGE) Get them off me! Get off me!

**VOC:**

Very well, sir.

**FAREL:**

Don't talk to me!

BURBLE OF READ-OUT.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah... I thought as much.

**LIV:**

As much as what?

**DOCTOR:**

Mr Farel, you've locked this ship's navigation controls. We need the code to unlock them. What is it?

COMMS BLEEP.

**FAREL:**

Hello.

**LIV:**

What's he doing?

**SELERAT:**

He's got a comms unit. Who are you talking to, Farel?

**FAREL:**

Yes, Elicien. The robots are attacking. Killing everyone!

**LIV:**

That's not true.

**DOCTOR:**

He believes it is.

**SELERAT:**

Who's he talking to?

**DOCTOR:**

Elicien?

**FAREL:**

They want to crash the ship into Ventalis and destroy all the humans there.

**LIV:**

No, that's you—

**FAREL:**

They're mad! They say they protect you, look after you, but they're liars!

**SELERAT:**

What's he talking about?

**FAREL:**

They're killers! Yes! Mad killers! I have to escape! I must be the only survivor, to warn the human race about the danger of the robots! They must all be destroyed. Ripped apart! Melted down!

FOOTSTEPS AS HE DASHES.

**LIV:**

Where's he going?

**SELERAT:**

But... he's running straight at the wall. Farel!

BLEEP OF BUTTON. CONCEALED DOOR OPENS.

**FAREL:**

(AS HE RUSHES THROUGH THE DOOR) I've got to get out of here!!!

DOOR CLOSES.

**DOCTOR:**

A concealed doorway.

**SELERAT:**

I never knew that was there.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, they're all over your ship, captain. Security passageways.

**LIV:**

Just the kind of thing a security chief needs, I suppose.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, and if he wants to be the only survivor, my guess is he'll be making a short cut straight to an escape pod of some kind.

**SELERAT:**

We only have one lifeboat.

**DOCTOR:**

Then we've got to get to it and stop him.

**SELERAT:**

Computer, activate guide beacons to the lifeboat bay.

**COMPUTER:**

Activating.

A SIREN BRIEFLY SOUNDS. THEN THE SOFT PULSING SOUND OF ORANGE LIGHTS. THIS CONTINUES.

**SELERAT:**

Right, Doctor, all you have to do is follow the orange lights. They'll lead you straight to it.

**COMPUTER:**

Are you evacuating the ship?

**LIV:**

Well, Doctor? Are we?

**DOCTOR:**

Not yet. Captain, I need you to wait here. Be ready to input the unlocking code as soon as we get it off Farel.

**LIV:**

What makes you think he'll tell us?

**DOCTOR:**

Boundless optimism. *Come on.*

MUSIC: A RACE AGAINST TIME.

**65. INT. CORRIDOR/ELEVATOR.**

FOOTSTEPS OF DOCTOR AND LIV RUNNING.

PULSING SOUND OF ORANGE LIGHTS.

**LIV:**

This way, Doctor, we've got to take the elevator.

BUTTON PUSHED. DOORS OPEN.

**DOCTOR:**

Which floor? Ah, of course, the one with the orange light.

DOORS CLOSE. WE ARE INSIDE THE ELEVATOR. ELEVATOR DESCENDS.

Going down. Gentlemen's trousers.

**LIV:**

So... who do you think this Elicien is?

**DOCTOR:**

A member of the crew?

**LIV:**

I've never heard of him. Mind you, I didn't really know everyone on board. You mean, you think Farel's got a partner in all this? I didn't think psychopaths worked in teams.

**DOCTOR:**

He's not a psychopath. He's a robophobic... although, I grant you, the two conditions do have many similarities.

**LIV:**

Maybe it's a code name for someone.

COMMS BLEEP.

**DOCTOR:**

Who are you calling?

**LIV:**

Cravnet? Cravnet... can you hear me?

**DOCTOR:**

You think it could be Cravnet?

**LIV:**

You said you thought he was robophobic.



**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Liv? Is that you?

**LIV:**

Oh... yes. How... er... how are you feeling?

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Dizzy. What the hell did you give me?

**LIV:**

(WHISPERS) He doesn't sound like a psychopath.

**DOCTOR:**

(WHISPERS) He isn't.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Hello? I can't hear you. Did you say something about a psychopath?

**LIV:**

Never mind that. Do you know anyone on board called Elicien?

ELEVATOR STOPS. DOORS OPEN.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Eh? Who?

**DOCTOR:**

Come on. This way, Liv.

FOOTSTEPS AS THEY START TO MOVE OFF. CORRIDOR AGAIN.

WE HEAR THE PULSING OF THE ORANGE LIGHTS AGAIN.

THEY ARE BOTH RUNNING.

**LIV:**

Left up ahead.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

What are you doing? What's going on?

MUTE BUTTON BLEEP.

**LIV:**

(TO THE DOCTOR) I've got him on 'mute' this time.

**DOCTOR:**

Well done.

**LIV:**

Should I just risk it and tell him the truth?

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Hello? Are you still there?

**DOCTOR:**

The truth is always the best policy in my experience... well, almost always... except when it really gets you into trouble.

**LIV:**

Oh thanks.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Hello?

**DOCTOR:**

But since we've got less than an hour...

**LIV:**

Right. Okay. (BLEEP 'UNMUTE') Look, Cravnet—

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Yes? What?

**LIV:**

You know how it turned out that the robots weren't trying to kill us?

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Er... yeah, but didn't they kill Farel—?

**LIV:**

No, they didn't kill Farel.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Oh. How do you know that?

**LIV:**

Because he faked his own death.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Did he? Why?

**LIV:**

Because he was the murderer. Turns out he did it dressed up as a robot.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

You're kiddin'?

**LIV:**

With less than an hour to go before we smash into Ventalis and blow up, no I am not kidding, Cravnet!

**DOCTOR:**

Mr Cravnet! Check the crew manifest for anyone called Elicien.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Why?

**LIV:**

Because we think that's the name of the person Farel is working with, and he's currently about to jump ship without giving us the release codes for the ship's navigation.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

I'll start looking. 'Elicien', you say?

**LIV AND DOCTOR:**

Yes!

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

How do you spell that?

**MUSIC: RACE AGAINST TIME, KICKS UP A NOTCH OF DESPERATION.**

**66. INT. LIFEBOAT.**

DOOR BUZZES AND HISSES OPEN.

FOOTSTEPS CLANK ACROSS METAL.

A CODE IS ENTERED ON A CODE PAD. BLEEP.

**FAREL:**

(QUIET, TO HIMSELF) Lifeboat systems activate.

THE LIFEBOAT POWERS UP, IMPRESSIVELY.

CONTROLS OPERATED.

**FAREL:**

Prepare main drive.

ANOTHER SET OF IMPRESSIVE, POWERING UP EFFECTS.

Set ambient sound 'Elicien 001'.

A BLEEP, AND THE SERENE MUSIC WE'VE HEARD BEFORE STARTS TO PIPE OUT OF THE SPEAKERS.

IT BUILDS AND BECOMES INCIDENTAL MUSIC. UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL. CRESCENDO.

THEN CRASH BACK INTO...

MUSIC: RACE AGAINST TIME...

**67. INT. CORRIDOR.**

FOOTSTEPS DASH AS THE DOCTOR AND LIV RUN TOWARDS US. WE FOLLOW THEM AS THEY RUN.

**LIV:**  
How far now?

**DOCTOR:**  
I've no idea. Ask your captain.

COMMS BLEEP.

**LIV:**  
Captain?!?

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**  
Are you there yet?

**LIV:**  
No. We've just passed intersection 70J-4. How close are we?

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**  
If you keep running, it should take you another five or ten minutes.

**DOCTOR:**  
And how long until the ship hits Ventalis?

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**  
Er... about twenty-five minutes.

**LIV:**  
Oh... great.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**  
I've got the robots helping me with the navigation controls.

**DOCTOR:**  
Any luck?

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**  
Well, they've unlocked all the peripheral control functions, but the main navigation controls are still locked by whatever Farel's secret code is. They're trying as many permutations as they can think of... which is quite a lot actually.

**DOCTOR:**

My guess is that it'll be something deeply personal, tied up with the reasons for his robophobia.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Oh... well the robots are hardly going to guess that, are they?

**DOCTOR:**

Hope springs eternal, Captain.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Very comforting.

**LIV:**

Another elevator. Come on!

THEY COME TO A HALT, GASPING.

BUTTON PRESSED. NOTHING HAPPENS.

**DOCTOR:**

What's the matter?

**LIV:**

The elevator's not working. Captain?

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Elevator 70K-2?

**LIV:**

Er... where... ? Ah, yes!

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Oh. Out of service, I'm afraid.

**LIV:**

No!

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

But there's a service ladder shaft to your right. It's only five decks down.

**LIV:**

Oh... brilliant.

**DOCTOR:**

Come on.

MUSIC: CRASH OF RACE AGAINST TIME, THEN CROSS-FADE TO...

**68. INT. LIFEBOAT.**

SERENE MUSIC CROSS-FADES FROM FOREGROUND TO PIPING OUT OF SPEAKERS.

COMMS BLEEP.

**FAREL:**

(FONDLY, CLOSE) Elicien. We've done it. We've stopped them. Stopped them forever.

SERENE MUSIC CRESCENDO.

**69. INT. LADDER SHAFT.**

FOOTSTEPS ON METAL RUNGS AS DOCTOR AND LIV CLIMB DOWN.

**DOCTOR:**

Ow, that was my hand.

**LIV:**

Sorry. Can't you go any faster?

**DOCTOR:**

I'd rather not fall five decks down, thank you very much.

**LIV:**

Oh, come on, we must be further down than that.

COMMS BLEEP.

**DOCTOR:**

Who's that?

**LIV:**

Hello? Captain?

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

It's me. Cravnet.

**DOCTOR:**

Have you come up with anything?

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

There's no one called Elicien in the crew.

**LIV:**

(FRUSTRATED) Oh... no.

**CRAVNET:**

But... get this... I took a look at Farel's personal files.

**LIV:**

And?

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

And Elicien is the name of his wife.

**LIV:**

He's got his wife on board?

**DOCTOR:**

(SUDDENLY KNOWING EVERYTHING) Of course!



**70. INT. LIFEBOAT.**

SERENE MUSIC PLAYING.

DOOR HISSES OPEN.

**DOCTOR:**

Hello.

**FAREL:**

Stay back! (GUN POWERS UP) Stay back or I'll shoot!

**DOCTOR:**

I *am* staying back.

**FAREL:**

How did you open that hatch?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh... I'm very good with doors. Rudimentary code system. Pity you didn't use anything so simple when you locked the navigational controls of this ship.

**FAREL:**

Get back and close the hatch or I'll kill you.

**DOCTOR:**

Well, since you've made sure we're all going to get blown up anyway, I'm afraid that isn't much of an incentive.

**FAREL:**

I'm not bluffing.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm sure you're not. I'll go then. Oh, but before I do... I'd like to have a word with Elicien, please.

CUT TO...

**71. INT. ADJOINING CORRIDOR.**

THE SERENE MUSIC IS AUDIBLE IN THE DISTANCE.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

What's he doing?

**LIV:**

Sssh... keep your voice down.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

(WHISPERS) Sorry.

**LIV:**

He's managed to get the door open, but it sounds like Farel's got a gun.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Is... is that music?

**LIV:**

Yeah. It is. It's kind of beautiful, isn't it?

COMMS BLEEP.

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

I've heard it before.

**LIV:**

Cravnet? When?

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

At night, mostly, coming from his office. Sometimes during the day... but mostly at night.

**72. INT. LIFEBOAT.**

**FAREL:**

You can't speak to her. Get out.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, I think she'll want to speak to me. In fact, I know she will.

**FAREL:**

She won't speak to you.

**DOCTOR:**

She will.

**FAREL:**

Shut up! (PAUSE) What makes you think she'll speak to you?

**DOCTOR:**

We have something in common, you see.

**FAREL:**

What? What do you mean? You've got nothing in common with her. She's *my* wife. She won't speak to you. She won't speak to any of you!

**DOCTOR:**

Who killed Tal Karus?

**FAREL:**

What? A robot.

**DOCTOR:**

Who killed deputy Leebar?

**FAREL:**

Robots killed him.

**DOCTOR:**

And the pilot too?

**FAREL:**

Yes! And all the others! The engineering crew. The tech support team.

**DOCTOR:**

And who killed me?

**FAREL:**

(FALTERING, CONFUSED) I... I...

**DOCTOR:**

(COAXING) Come on, Chief... don't you remember?

**FAREL:**

You... you were... were with Tal, in his cabin.

**DOCTOR:**

That's right. And what happened?

**FAREL:**

A robot killed him.

**DOCTOR:**

Then what?

**FAREL:**

It killed you! *The robot killed you!*

**DOCTOR:**

And that's what I have in common with your wife.

**FAREL:**

(JUST NOISES... CAN'T SPEAK... JUST ATTEMPTS AT SPEECH)

**DOCTOR:**

It's all right. Pass me the comms unit. Let me speak to her.

COMMS BLEEP.

Thank you. (TO 'ELICIEN') Nice music by the way, Elicien. ('LISTENS' TO HER). Ah, I thought so. (TO FAREL) She says it was her favourite tune.

**FAREL:**

(BEGINS TO SOB) Yes. We played it at the funeral.

**73. INT. ADJOINING CORRIDOR.**

**LIV:**

(HUSHED) This is crazy.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

(HUSHED) What's crazy?

**LIV:**

(HUSHED) The Doctor's talking to Farel's wife, but—

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

(HUSHED) Hang on... I've just been looking at his files again, to get some sort clue... Elicien, his wife, she's—

**LIV:**

(HUSHED) Dead. Yeah. I know.

**74. INT. LIFEBOAT.**

**DOCTOR:**

(HAVING LISTENED TO 'ELICIEN') I understand. (TO FAREL)  
She says she wants you to stop all this. She wants you to  
give us the code to unlock the navigation controls.

**FAREL:**

No!

**DOCTOR:**

It doesn't matter. She's telling me the code now.

**FAREL:**

She can't.

**DOCTOR:**

Why not?

**FAREL:**

I... I never told her.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, but you see... She can guess. You must know that.

**FAREL**

(IN PAIN) No!!! Please, no!

**DOCTOR:**

And anyway, I think you did tell her. And when you told  
her, it was the most important thing you'd ever said to  
her.

**FAREL:**

(SCREAMS) Noooooo!

HIS SCREAM REVERBERATES WILDLY. THE RUSHING OF A TERRIBLE  
SAND STORM CROSS-FADES INTO IT. THE SERENE MUSIC SURGES...

**75. FAREL'S FLASHBACK/LIFEBOAT.**

THE SAND STORM SOUNDS BECOMING MUFFLED BY THE RUMBLING OF A SANDMINER'S ENGINES.

AN ALARM IS SOUNDING.

**FAREL:**

(DESPERATE) Get out of there now, Elicien! Get out of there!

**VOC: [DISTORT]**

There is a control circuit malfunction, Chief Farel.

**ELICIEN: [DISTORT]**

Terel! The scoop vents are locked open!

**FAREL:**

I know, Elicien. I know, that's why you've got to get out there! There's a sand storm on the way!

**VOC: [DISTORT]**

The bulkhead exits are jammed.

**FAREL:**

Then break them down!

**VOC: [DISTORT]**

We are not strong enough to break them down.

**FAREL:**

Of course you're strong enough! What's the matter with you? You're robots!

**VOC: [DISTORT]**

We cannot. They are built to higher tolerances. But we will protect your wife as best we can. We will form a barrier around her with our bodies.

**FAREL:**

That's not going to work.

**ELICIEN: [DISTORT]**

It's the best they can do, Terel. They're trying their best to protect me.

THE SAND STORM IS RISING TO A TERRIBLE PITCH ON DISTORT.

**FAREL:**

Elicien!

**ELICIEN:** [DISTORT]

The sand storm is coming, Terel! I can't hear you! If you can hear me, remember what we always say! Remember that, my love!

THE SAND STORM REACHES A TERRIBLE PITCH.

**ELICIEN:** [DISTORT]

(SCREAMS)

STATIC BREAKS UP. SILENCE.

AS FAREL SPEAKS, THE BACKGROUND FX CROSS-FADE TO THE INTERIOR OF THE LIFEBOAT...

**FAREL:**

(SOFTLY) I love you today. And all the other days.

**DOCTOR:**

(WITH GREAT SINCERITY) I'm sorry, Farel.



**76. INT. ADJOINING CORRIDOR.**

**LIV:**

(DETERMINED) Captain... The code is 'I love you today. And all the other days'.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Is that with spaces? Any idea of the punctuation?

**LIV:**

How long have we got?

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

Er... just over fifteen minutes before we reach Ventalis orbit.

**LIV:**

Then you've got time to try every permutation. Give it to a robot to input.

COMMS BLEEP.

(CALLING OUT) Doctor, everything all right in there?

**DOCTOR:**

(IN DISTANCE) You can come in now.

**77. INT. LIFEBOAT.**

SERENE MUSIC IS STILL PLAYING.

SLOW FOOTSTEPS AS LIV ENTERS.

MUSIC SWITCHES OFF.

**FAREL:**

(SOBBING QUIETLY)

**DOCTOR:**

(QUIETLY) We'd better take him to your sickbay, in case he has a change of heart.

**LIV:**

(QUIETLY) I got the code to the captain. The robots are inputting it now.

COMMS BLEEP.

Captain?

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

No, it's me... Cravnet! Listen, I've just found out how Farel's wife died.

**LIV:**

It's all right, Cravnet, it doesn't matter—

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

(BLURTING IT OUT) She was ripped to pieces by a sandstorm. Robots said they'd protect her... tried to, apparently, but it was no good—

**LIV:**

Yes, all *right*, Cravnet! *That's enough!*

**CRAVNET: [DISTORT]**

Eh? Sorry, I was just trying—

COMMS BLEEP, AS SHE CUTS HIM OFF.

**LIV:**

Sorry... Farel. Sorry.

**FAREL:**

(SOBBING)

**LIV:**

Why am I apologizing? He's a murderer.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. He is. He lost himself. He couldn't accept there was no one to blame for his wife's death. So he blamed the only creatures who really tried to save her. The robots.

**LIV:**

Doesn't make me feel any better... knowing why he did it. Why he killed my friends. I mean, what's to stop me using all this, everything that's happened today, as a reason for me to become a murderer now?

**DOCTOR:**

I don't know, Liv. What's to stop you? Are you going to become a murderer?

**LIV:**

No.

**DOCTOR:**

We're all different. That's one of the few certainties I've ever come across.

**LIV:**

How did you know, Doctor? About the code?

**DOCTOR:**

Hm? Oh... I guessed.

**LIV:**

(FLABBERGHASTED) Wh— ? You... You *guessed*?

**DOCTOR:**

I've encountered Grimwade's Syndrome before. I knew the trauma that triggered his robophobia would've had something to do with robots. And when he was speaking to a wife who wasn't on board, I guessed that trauma might have been her death.

**LIV:**

Do you make a lot of guesses like that?

**DOCTOR:**

Well... even the things we think are facts often turn out not to be true. So, estimating something without sufficient information to be sure you're correct, isn't as risky as you'd think... if you look at it that way. And besides, I've been watching human beings for a very long time.

**LIV:**

Have you now? Right, Farel, come on. You'd better come with us to the med centre.

COMMS BLEEP.

(HUFFS) I swear, I'll swing for that Cravnet.

COMMS BLEEP.

Look, Cravnet—!

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

It's Selerat.

**LIV:**

Oh.

**DOCTOR:**

Have you input the code, Captain?

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

We did. And it worked.

**LIV:**

(HUGE SIGH OF RELIEF) Oh, fantastic!

**DOCTOR:**

Well done, Captain.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

(IN A RUSH) The only trouble is... the velocity controls have overheated and fused. And at this speed, any course alteration would simply endanger other planets and shipping in the system. Basically, whatever we do, we're going to crash into something.

**LIV:**

Please say you're joking.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

What? Of course I'm not joking! What kind of stupid joke would that be?

**DOCTOR:**

Captain, you've got to abandon ship now. Get down here to the lifeboat. Liv, call Cravnet and tell him to get down here too.

**SELERAT: [DISTORT]**

But I'll never get down there in time! We've only got—

**DOCTOR:**

Run, Captain! Run! I'll try to give you all the time I can.

COMMS BLEEP.

**LIV:**

You will? How? What are you going to do?

**DOCTOR:**

I've got a plan, but it's very risky, so it's best I do it on my own.

**LIV:**

Is it based on guessing again?

**DOCTOR:**

Possibly. The most important thing is that you live, Liv. Oh... nice name, by the way. Good-bye!

HE DASHES OFF.

**LIV:**

Oh. But. Oh.

COMMS BLEEP.

Cravnet! Don't speak, just get down here now!

**78. INT. COMMAND DECK.**

TARDIS MATERIALIZES.

DOOR OPENS.

**DOCTOR:**

Hello. How are things?

**VOC:**

What are you doing here? All humans are attempting to evacuate the ship.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm not human. And as to what I'm doing here... Well, I'm breaking a few tiny rules... a bit. Just a bit. When did the captain leave?

**VOC:**

A moment ago.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, good, right, at least I've bought myself some time.

**VOC:**

What time?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, you know, popped into the TARDIS, eased back a few minutes... just a few... so as not to risk getting lost three centuries away. Well, I did get lost three centuries away, but I found my way back. The TARDIS can be a bit temperamental. Why am I telling you this? Why am I always explaining? I really must stop trying to explain things. For all I know, I might be wrong. I hope I'm not, but I might be. You never know, do you? And anyway, I'm wasting time.

**VOC:**

I do not understand.

FOOTSTEPS AS THE DOCTOR STRIDES FORWARD.

**DOCTOR:**

Doesn't matter! Right... this is the navigational section here, isn't it?

COMMS BLEEP

**VENTALIS CONTROL: [DISTORT]**

This is Ventalis control to cargo ship *Lorelei*. You are approaching our planet at an unsafe speed. Please decelerate immediately.

**DOCTOR:**

Can we talk to them? Reassure them?

**VOC:**

The comms controls are jammed.

**DOCTOR:**

Never mind then. Now, my plan is this... Even though we can't alter the velocity and slow ourselves down, we *can* alter course... And the only thing we can hit without causing damage to anyone except ourselves is—

**VOC:**

The Ventalis Sun. We have already set the course.

**DOCTOR:**

You... ? You've already set it? I didn't arrive earlier and tell you to do that, did I?

COMMS BLEEP

**VENTALIS CONTROL: [DISTORT]**

Cargo ship *Lorelei*. This is Ventalis control. [CONTINUES UNDER DOCTOR AND VOC DIALOGUE] I repeat... You are approaching our planet at an unsafe speed. If you do not alter course or decelerate immediately, we will be forced to attack and destroy your ship.

**VOC:**

We will sling-shot the ship around Ventalis, using the planet's gravity. The ship will then be propelled directly into the heart of the Ventalis Sun.

**DOCTOR:**

That's what I was going to do. And the course alteration will give everybody time to get away in the lifeboat.

**VOC:**

This will be the best way to serve the humans.

COMMS BLEEP.

**DOCTOR:**

Liv, are you all aboard yet?

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Doctor, where are you?

**DOCTOR:**

On the bridge.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

But you can't be! You've only just left. How did you manage that?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, it's a very short story.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Listen, Doctor, Cravnet's nearly here, but I don't think the captain's going to make it in time.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes he is. Wait for him. I told you, I'm buying you some extra time.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

But how?

**DOCTOR:**

Robot, activate that course now.

CONTROLS BLEEP. A RUMBLE OF ENGINES.

**VOC:**

Course now activated.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

What have you done?

**DOCTOR:**

It wasn't me. It was the robots. They're protecting you. They have your best interests at heart. Remember to tell everyone that when you get to Ventalis. Remember to tell them that the robots saved your lives.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Um, I think you had something to do with it as well, though.

**DOCTOR:**

Oooh, not much really. I just wanted to make sure that one man's tragedy didn't destroy an entire civilization.

**LIV: [DISTORT]**

Er... well, that's... that's very nice of you, Doctor. But what exactly are you going to—?

COMMS BLEEP.



**DOCTOR:**

Sorry. No time. (TO THE ROBOT) How long until impact with the sun?

**VOC:**

Impact in... One hour.

**DOCTOR:**

Well, that's plenty of time for quite a few of you to get into my TARDIS and escape.

**VOC:**

There is no need, Doctor. Our destruction does not matter. Other robots will always be manufactured. We must stay here and make sure this ship does not cause any damage to other space traffic.

**DOCTOR:**

You know, this culture is very lucky to share its existence with creatures as selfless as you.

**VOC:**

It is merely our programming.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, we're all programmed in some way or other. But will you do me one last favour?

**VOC:**

Of course.

**DOCTOR:**

That planet out there has already received one message from a robot today... but it was false. Will you send them a truthful message?

**VOC:**

What message?

**DOCTOR:**

A message explaining everything. Access Farel's personnel file. Access Tal's database on Robophobia. Then you'll be able to tell the whole story. The real story.

**79. INT. LIFEBOAT.**

RACING FOOTSTEPS AS SELERAT DASHES IN.

**SELERAT:**

(PANTING, OUT OF BREATH) Made it!

DOOR HISSES SHUT.

**LIV:**

Right, everyone in?

**CRAVNET:**

Yeah. Hatch sealed.

**SELERAT:**

(TOTALLY OUT OF BREATH) Yes... just about... I thought I'd run out of time. How the hell—?

**LIV:**

Listen!

COMMS BLEEP.

**VENTALIS CONTROL: [DISTORT]**

This is Ventalis control. We are monitoring your course alteration. You are now clearing our orbit, *Lorelei*, but we must warn you that you are heading straight for the sun. You must correct your course immediately.

COMMS BLEEP.

**SELERAT:**

Who did that? The Doctor?

**LIV:**

The Doctor... the robots... A bit of both, I think. Cravnet, let's not waste any more time. Launch.

**CRAVNET:**

You got it.

CONTROLS OPERATED. LAUNCH ALARM SOUNDS.

*Brace yourselves! Here we go!!!*

CUT TO EXTERIOR AND LIFEBOAT LAUNCHING.

AS THE BURN OF THE ENGINE FADES SLOWLY, CROSS-FADE TO..

**80. ROBOT MESSAGE.**

SLOW FADE IN ON...

**VOC: [DISTORT]**

... And so you will understand why, from the files embedded in this transmission, that we were regrettably unable to prevent loss of human life in these extreme circumstances. However, we have ensured the survival of the remaining crew members and would like to assure you that normal robot services will be resumed as soon as possible.

THE LORELEI CRASHES INTO THE SUN WITH A HUGE EXPLOSION.

*CRASH IN CLOSING THEME.*